

to take place. This was my first indication of a general public interest in the annual training of their soldiery. The training was that of two divisions, operating against one another. Each division was inspected before-hand at places some 80 kilometers (50 miles) apart as the crow flies. I was able to see one of their inspections. Special trains were run. Booths for refreshments were erected in the vicinity. The ground for the inspection and the subsequent march-past was roped-off and surrounded with people, who formed an unbroken crowd for half a mile on each side of the route of the march-past. Special tickets were necessary for enclosures near the saluting point. The interest throughout evinced a people taking an interest and a pride in a truly National Militia, of which they felt that they were a part. This interest, this feeling of co-partnership, is not only noticeable on the part of the press and public, but in private life it is just as marked a feature. Not in any sense as what some people term "Militarism"—the thirst for blood, the love of glitter and display, the pomp and frills and consequence of military organization. None of that is ever in evidence. It is merely the potential "power of defence" of a patriotic people who have a long, much-cherished history, comprising many deeds of self-sacrifice and bravery. The defence system is taken as a matter of fact, a necessary and welcomed duty; it is treated in a purely business-like manner, and it is recognized as a splendid national training school, so much so that whenever a chance of law requires more time to be devoted to National Military service it is carried by immense popular majorities. Though the service is obligatory, I have questioned both officer and man, who in private life are very busy; they have invariably informed me that they enjoy the service and do not wish to leave it. One of the former, an officer, the head of a prosperous business, seemed so much occupied with his affairs that I asked him if he did not find Clause 10 of their act (compelling acceptance of promotion) very trying, he replied, "No, we have no difficulty about having a resignation accepted as there are always others quite willing to take our places, but I find the recreation and exercise good for me, and even though I have to take many courses I like the service and shall remain in it until my age limit is up."

That service as an officer demands self-sacrifice in Switzerland, as well as with us in Canada, goes without saying. In a militia this must always be the case. Another Swiss officer, now commanding a company, informed me that while there were sufficient officers available for the higher ranks, yet many married men went no higher than lieutenant. This officer hap-