

here selected for the reason that, according to the latest findings, conscription in England would be moulded on that of Switzerland. Conscription in Switzerland is exceedingly moderate, beginning with physical exercise in the school volunteer cadet corps, supplemented by 70 days' service in the army. It might be imagined that Switzerland, owing her political existence more to treaties than to any amount of possible strength she may exert, would discard conscription were it conflicting with the duties of civic life. But authorities there actually declare that so useful is conscription that were it abolished something would have to be substituted. Far from reducing the wealth of a nation, by interfering with civil employments, conscription contributes to that wealth, both directly and indirectly. It contributes directly by the saving of expenditure. In 1898 the total British army expenditure, including India, amounted to £37,000,000. The German army, three times the size of our own, cost, in 1898, only £30,000,000. The indirect saving is still greater, for the loafers and unemployed are turned into productive labor. According to the Poor Law returns, there are no fewer than 1,000,000 paupers in England, who are able to earn at least, each, \$5 a week. Of course, every one of these paupers would not produce exactly \$5, still a large proportion could become productive workers. As a matter of fact, general conscription has increased the wealth of Germany, where there are 4 per cent. more productive workers than in England. We may present this argument in another form. While the English soldier in our paltry and inefficient army, as Lord Roberts testifies, costs the nation about £118. 8s in 1904-5, the German soldier costs £41, 2s, the French soldier £45, 2s, for the same year. Nay, more, the general taxation is greater in England than in other conscript nations of Europe, being 60s per head in the United Kingdom, 45 in Germany and France, 41 in Spain, and 28 in Austria.

So far there is only a comparison, but imagine what would be the enormous and indefinite loss of a war for which we are unprepared!

Conscription puts a nation in possession of an efficient army and of a wider diffusion of material well-being. But there are loftier things than these. A nation has not only a body, but also a soul. History and experience alike go to show that conscription is a necessary tonic for the intellectual and moral welfare of the body politic. In every state there is the real and the ideal. Sparta, in the heyday of her greatness, led the intellectual life of Greece. The conscript citizens of Athens guided the destinies of a country in which