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MR. HALDANE'S ARMY SCHEME

THE proposals of the Secretary of State for War are replete with the elements of sound, practical and practicable reform; yet it would be idle to pretend that they go far enough to obtain, as they stand, the whole-hearted approval of those who hope to see our land forces sufficiently formidable to furnish a reliable safeguard against the risks of war. Upon the other hand, the evident intention to augment our effective fighting strength very considerably, and the steps actually taken in this direction, more especially by invoking the patriotism of all classes of the community in aid of the efforts being made to procure an efficient system of national defence, will most assuredly provoke to anger those foolish persons who systematically obstruct every attempt made to strengthen our military position, crying peace when there is no peace, and wallowing blindly in the mire of "improvident economy." With the objections already made, or hereafter to be raised, by the various shades of anti-patriotic opinion, it is not, however, worth while to trouble ourselves; they are irritating to some small extent, but must be endured, along with the many other petty trials that humanity is heir to. Certainly no army scheme of the slightest use to the nation could be pleasing to such persons, and the fact that they are dissatisfied with that propounded by Mr. Haldane is a point