

nection between the army and any particular districts; also none between the regular regiments and the reserve men who have passed through them. The age of conscription is twenty, one, and all men attaining to that age in any one year, who may not have been among the 100,000 drawn for the army are enrolled in the Garde Nationale Mobile, in which they continue five years. These remain at their homes, and the only military duty required of them by the law in ordinary times is the performance of fifteen drills in each year, with the proviso that no drill shall take them from their homes for more than one night. This part of the law however, has never been enforced, as the present war has found the Garde Mobile totally untrained. In time of war the Garde Mobile are to be employed in garrison duty, in guarding communications or in furnishing reinforcements to the field army.

Of the 100,000 recruits drawn yearly for the army 70,000 are at once drafted into the ranks, while the remaining 30,000 are enrolled in the *first reserve*, in which they continue for nine years, no military service being exacted during peace, except that they shall be drilled during five months in each of the first two years. At the conclusion of the nine years they are discharged. These are the men, as implied by the title of the *first reserve*, who are first taken to complete the regular regiments to their proper strength at the commencement of a war.

The 70,000 drafted into the ranks, after completing five years service, are enrolled in the *second reserve*, and continue therein for four years; after which they are held to have fulfilled their military obligations, and are finally discharged.

In contrasting the comparative preparedness for war of the French and Prussian systems, General Trochu eulogises that territorial organization of the latter, by means of which the different corps, divisions and brigades, with their proper material, field equipment and staff, are constantly and permanently acting together, and with their proper reinforcements in reserve, are maintained always in a condition to take the field on the order to mobilize. Such a system gives advantages of all kinds in the preparation of war, which can thus be carried on without throwing the country and the army into a state of violent agitation by sudden and exceptional efforts, which have the serious evil of disclosing beforehand intentions it is of vital importance to conceal to the last moment.

In his remarks on the Intendance, Gen. Trochu says:—

"Il faut, pour être bon forgeron, avoir forge tout sa vie." To be a good administrator, one should have passed his whole life in the study and practice of business.

He, therefore, considers it a serious error that the heads of the Intendance, the regulators of the existence of the French armies in the field, should be superannuated generals! and that all their subordinate functionaries, having passed a great part of their lives as officers or sub-officers of the army, can have no knowledge of the operations of trade by which alone supply can adjust itself to demand. During the Italian campaign of 1859, the troops were often without bread in one of the richest corn producing countries in Europe. Biscuit was equally deficient. In the Crimea the Intendance broke down so completely that recourse was obliged to be had to a great commercial house at Marseilles, which henceforth successfully supplied the wants of the army.

It is perhaps superfluous to make such copious extracts relating to the systems of Prussia and France; but, as we can only estimate the degree of excellence of our own system when comparing it with that of older and more advanced nations, taking into that consideration the difference between these countries as regards their requirements for defensive organization and the circumstances of the people, it is perhaps well that the opportunity for making such comparisons is afforded us from time to time.

Our organization is in many respects unlike either of the two systems referred to, but approaches nearer to that of the Prussian than of the French, and, as far as we have gone, the provisions of the law are, no doubt, more in accord with the spirit of our institutions and the circumstances of our people, than either of these systems would prove, if adopted pure and simple, but there are many points of detail in which we are wanting, and it becomes our duty to take advantage of the knowledge placed within our reach, let it come from whatever source it may.

It may be well, under all the circumstances, for such an ambitious country as Prussia is, to insist upon a lengthened period of drill, and an almost universal training of the young men of the country, but then, she has a population of 30,000, and is, in our sense of the word, without an extended territory in proportion to that population; in consequence, labour is cheap and abundant. But in Canada, with a population of only 4,000,000, and a desire only to guard the river, she is permitted to enjoy, the case is different. Her territory is considerable in extent, her population is sparse and the winters long, which requires as a necessary consequence, the concentration of a considerable portion of the agricultural operations of the year within these months during which drill can only be successfully carried on in camps; the result is that during that portion of the year there is an extra demand for agricultural labour at high rates. Besides this, the fact of our having such an abundance of uncultivated land for sale at low prices, and in many instances it is actually given away to actual settlers, tends to give the labour of able bodied militiamen a commercial value in the eyes of the people. As by settling on these lands and without extraordinary effort, any industrious man can in a few years make a comfortable home and independence for himself, he helps to make work in the rural districts more plentiful, and labor of all kinds more difficult to procure. It turns out, therefore, that a necessity prevails for every eligible militiaman to have some occupation or calling, and it matters not what that occupation or calling may be, the more important it is the greater the necessity for his becoming, through personal knowledge of all the details, able to rely upon his own head and hands for persevering industry to carry him safely through. The man of capital equally with the man of more moderate means, has ample occupation, and hence the difficulty arises as to the exact extent the industry of the country can be diverted from these pursuits for purposes of drill and training.

(To be continued.)

The impracticability of treating with the United States as to the Alabama claims seems to be insurmountable. Certain of the politicians appear determined that no peaceful result shall be arrived at. It is said that Great Britain has actually volunteered even after the gross and offensive blundering of American authorities, to agree

to the following terms. Admission of liability and payment of all claims so far as regards the Alabama, submission to arbitration so far as regards the cases of the *Shenandoah*, *Florida*, *Georgia* and other Southern privateers; agreement to a treaty binding the powers to prevent the sailing of vessels from their ports whose mission is to endanger the friendly state (of course under penalties.) But the moment these terms are proposed, up rise the Senators of the Butler school in Committee, and declare that as Britain is obviously afraid of being whipped into almighty smash, the U.S., like a Turkish huckster, must immediately raise her terms. And what, will it be guessed, is the compensation that these gentlemen have the hardihood to propose?—not in a stumpy speech, or at a revival meeting, or at a complimentary dinner, but in all the gravity of official conclave. Why, nothing more or less than that no money indemnity shall be accepted of England, but that she shall be compelled to give up a portion of her Canadian territory, in order that the American Eagle may triumphantly shriek over it before retiring to his lonely couch in the bosom of the setting sun! That's all the Eastern members wish—at present.—*Montreal Gazette*.

A NEW GUN-CARRIAGE.—It is understood that there is some idea of forming mitrailleuse batteries in India. The gun is to be mounted on and fired from a camel's back the latter kneeling down at the word "action." At present this idea is not even in an experimental stage; but in all probability such trials will be made. This reminds us of an amusing story connected with the Ordnance Select Committee. It was at one time proposed to fire mountain guns off the backs of mules that carried them. It was urged that this would obviate the necessity of dismounting the gun from the mules back and mounting it on its carriage; a mountain battery could thus come into action in far less time. This proposal was warmly taken up by the committee, who proceeded to test its feasibility. A mule or donkey was procured, and a small gun strapped firmly to a cradle resting on the pack-saddle, so that the muzzle of the weapon pointed over the donkey's tail. The animal so the story goes, was then led into the marshes at Woolwich, accompanied by the committee and several "big wigs" who were attracted by such novel experiment. On arrival at the butt the gun was loaded, the donkey turned with his tail towards the earthen mound, and the usual preparations were made for firing, by means of a lanyard and friction tube. Hereupon, however, one of the committee remarked that this mode of firing might possibly derange the aim by the jerk on pulling the lanyard. A discussion followed, and it was finally arranged to fire the gun by a piece of slow match tied to the vent. This was accordingly done, and the match duly ignited. Hitherto the donkey had taken rather a sleepy interest in the proceedings, but somehow the fizzing of the match on his back caused him to prick up his ears, then to lay them back, and finally to begin to turn round. The committee were thunderstruck, and "skedaddled" in all directions; the secretary threw himself flat on his face; there was a moment of agonizing suspense, then—bang—the shot went ricocheting away in one direction, while the wretched donkey turned a complete somersault in the other direction.