

said he preferred a handful of real men to a mass of immature boys. There is no doubt at all that the ordinary British soldier, considered either as a regular or as a volunteer, is inferior to the German standard in point of height, weight, and chest measurement. It is evident that, relying on voluntary enlistment, it is impossible to obtain a sufficient number of soldiers. Consider the bounties England has been forced to offer as inducement to enlist. From 1715 to 1867, time after time, such bounties were offered. In 1787, during the American War of Independence, the war minister, in Parliament, stated that all his exertions had failed in recruiting the army up to its normal strength. In 1806, during a similar crisis, we are told by Allison that recruits were sought in the hulks and prisons. In 1859 the royal commissioners report that, though given three years to raise 65,000 men, even in spite of an increased bounty and a lower standard of requirement, it was impossible to get the stated number. At a later period, Sir Geo. Clarke asserts that there is a total deficiency of 164,000 men; and Lord Roberts, a deficiency of 3,000 officers. The British army is, therefore, deficient in both quality and quantity. Contrast with this a typically conscript nation, Germany. There a young man, after spending two years in the army and five in the reserve, becomes a thoroughly efficient soldier. In point of quantity, the German army number about 600,000.

Conscription is, indeed, desirable from the point of view of defense. Not only must countries with vulnerable borders, like Germany, France, Italy, resort to conscription, but even England herself has been compelled to employ other means than purely voluntary enlistment. But conscription commends itself in other respects. First, in its influence on the economic and industrial condition of the nation. Does a course of brief military training increase or hinder production of wealth? Does it really interfere with civil pursuits and professions? Since the question is largely one of experiment, we might consider the action of conscription in countries where it is adopted. Germany leads as a conscript nation; it is foremost in commerce, go-aheadness, and accumulation of wealth. Military thoroughness, military discipline, military powers of application, seem, like to vital fluid, to be actuating every department of civil life. Everything is best made in Germany, literary research, scholarly learning, scientific discoveries, even Oriental poetry and imagery, and the sublimest musical compositions have their habitat in Germany.

Another conscript country is Switzerland, and Switzerland is