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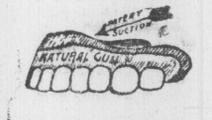
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OUR "CONTEMPTIBLE LITTLE ARMY"

(BY ELLIS M. COOK.)

FROM the Kaiser, with his celebrated directions to his Headquarters staff to "walk over" "General French's contemptible little army," down to the ignorant Prussian sergeant who casts the hateful word "mercenary" at his British prisoner the wildest misconceptions prevail in Germany as to the military possibilities of the British Empire.

General Bernhardt assured the students of military tactics that "at most 150,000 men (British soldiers) can be reckoned upon for an expeditionary force," and that to despatch even this number to the Continent would deplete the forces which might at any moment be needed to strengthen our garrisons overseas. Moreover, he dismissed the "militia" of the self-governing colonies with the remark "They (the colonies) can be completely ignored, so far as concerns any European theatre of war."

False Statements.

Meanwhile, German newspaper, sedulously cultivate in their readers the idea that recruits cannot be raised in the British Isles for love or money, and that the few soldiers who have been got must be heavily bribed. As the British soldier is paid less, whether officer or private, than can be gained by men of his own class in any skilled trade or profession, the gibe is ill deserved; and, as a matter of fact the German professional soldiers get their living by the profession of arms. Still, it is true that we are not a military nation, and that is probably why few people understand our military organisation. A few words about it will help to explain the composition of our forces in the field, and the present situation as to recruiting.

Lines of Land Defence

Great Britain and her dependencies have two lines of land defence. First the Regular Army—a professional body, enlisted for twelve years; seven with the colours for cavalry, engineers, and line infantry; six to eight for artillery; and three for foot guards; the remainder of the time with the Army Reserve. Second, the Territorial Force—a voluntary, civilian army, recruited on a county basis, but organised into divisions, each supposed to be complete in itself.

The terms as to drill and camp-work vary with the different branches of the service; but, roughly, the Territorial must put in forty-five drills as recruit training, and then twenty drills annually, and an annual training of two weeks in camp for three years. On the outbreak of war the Territorials are called up for six months' training, and they are enlisted only for home service, but large numbers of battalions have volunteered for foreign service.

The Reserves.

Behind the Regular Army is the Reserve, formed by men who belong to Section A—that is, who are in the first year of their Reserve service, and who may be called back to the colours without general mobilisation; Section B, whose active service is over, but whose twelve years have not yet expired; and a third section known as D, in which are comprised men who re-engage.

All these sections are obviously seasoned soldiers, and their numbers are an important factor. Behind them, again, is the Special Reserve—men who have not necessarily been soldiers before, but who enlist as Reservists to fill up gaps which may occur. They must be trained in the ordinary recruit manner for six months, and also receive technical training for such branches as artillery, siege and railway engineering; or they may enlist as Reservists for some corps for which their civilian calling qualifies them—such as the Army Medical Corps, Post Office Corps, Army Service Corps, or Royal Engineers.

Peace Establishment

The ordinary Peace establishment of our regular forces is (roughly) 350,000, of whom only some 130,000 are usually at home, the remaining 220,000 being quartered in India, South Africa, Egypt, Malta, China, Cyprus, Bermuda, and other colonies. Certain colonies, as is well known, have defence forces of their own—such as the King's African Rifles in East Africa and Uganda, and the West Coast regiments—which are not included in these calculations, being recruited from natives and led by officers of the British army. There is also the Indian army, recruited from natives, and officered partly by British and partly by their own people—some of these are now with the Expeditionary forces.

The armies of the native princes, which have been freely offered for service, must not be confused with the Indian army. These princes are sovereign-rulers, under allegiance to the King-Emperor, and they have their own armies, partly led and trained by British officers. In several cases the

princes are themselves commanding their troops in the field.

Argument Disproved.

Now the first thing to notice was the German calculation that we should not dare to remove any of our garrisons. As an answer to this we have called home practically all, with the result that we shall shortly have in the field some 350,000 first-class British troops—our full establishment and the Army Reserve, which numbered considerably over 100,000, and therefore gives us a margin for casualties.

As to the quality of our troops now in the field it can be said, without fear of contradiction, that they are probably the finest in the world. Nowhere else is there so large a body of troops who are practically all seasoned, experienced, long service, professional soldiers. The majority saw some three years' campaigning in South Africa, and many have seen service elsewhere—India and Egypt.

Splendid Force.

In the Territorial Army we have a body which, after a few months' training in camp, is well able to undertake garrison duty in some of the colonies, and so release the Regulars there. Canadian militia, be it noted, has done his in Bermuda. The Territorial

Force was considerably under establishment when war broke out, but a couple of weeks saw every battalion full, and fresh battalions have been raised to fill up gaps left by those who have gone to India, Gibraltar, Malta, or Egypt.

The number of "Terriers" now enrolled is some 500,000, and they comprise a large proportion of well-educated men of good physique and high morale. In the opinion of Professor Spencer Wilkinson (one of the foremost military writers of the day), many of the Territorial troops who have been in training since August 6, will be quite fit to take the field in the beginning of next year, being superior to the German Landsturm or the French Territorials, since both the latter—though originally trained soldiers—are fathers of families, grown stiff with civilian life, while our Territorial soldiers are of military age.

New Army.

Immediately after the outbreak of war, Lord Kitchener announced the formation of an entirely new army, to be trained at once, in order to be ready at a later stage—when our enemies will be feeling the strain, and when

the possession of fresh, trained troops will be of great advantage to us.

The numbers sanctioned by Parliament were 500,000 on August 6, and a fresh 500,000 on September 11. The work of enlisting and embodying these men goes on apace, but cannot be done in a few weeks, since arms, equipment, quarters, and instructors for one million new recruits cannot be improvised at a moment's notice.

It may be reckoned that at least 750,000 are already being trained, in addition to some 400,000 Territorials, and it will be easily understood what a strain is imposed on the military authorities. Literally, we have as many recruits under training as Germany—1,150,000.

Splendid Quality.

As to the quality of our recruits, it must be remembered that the physical standard is high, and that they are drawn from the best young men in the country. Battalions have been formed of public-school men, miners, professional men, civil servants, railway employees, shop-assistants, and so forth, with the idea that it would promote esprit de corps for friends to enlist together. In education and in physique these men are much superior to the ordinary recruit, and they are pronounced by all military experts to be magnificent material.

Here, then, are the present military forces of the United Kingdom:
Regular Army 250,000
Army Reserve and Special Reserve 200,000

Territorial Force	500,000
The New Army	750,000
	1,700,000

To arrive at the total of men now serving their country we must add:

The Royal Naval Reserve	200,000
Total	1,900,000

When the New Army is complete, we shall add another 250,000—or a grand total of 2,150,000 from the United Kingdom alone!

Two in Five Offer.

How does this figure compare with our population? We have a male population of 21,946,000, but of these only about five millions are between the ages of 18 and 35, and this makes no deduction for the physically unfit. As a very large proportion of our forces are certainly between those ages, it will be seen that we are giving something like two in five of our young men; yet no one can seriously contend that we have as yet felt any real strain.

Germany calls out her middle-aged fathers of families; her toll being something like one-sixth of her total male population. France calls out in every five of her males of all ages. It may be noted that the United Kingdom has the advantage of Germany or France in possessing a larger number of young adults in proportion to the total population. We are still enjoying the benefits of the unrestricted families of the parents of the 'seventies and 'eighties. Alas! Our proportion of children is lower than that of any nation save France! However, we need not be pessimistic as to our military possibilities when we see the quality of the recruits obtained in the last two months, and realise that we have still a vast reservoir on which to draw, for what Germany or France can do, we can do also—if needed.

Comparative Values.

Any attempt to estimate the comparative value as fighters of the races taking part in the present Armageddon is bound to be unsatisfactory; for there are born fighters in practically every country, just as there are men in whom training supplies the necessary stiffening to make a good soldier. But a French observer was probably not far wrong when he wrote, a few days ago, that the French are fighting well because they fight for their country and their homes; the Germans fight well because they are well trained; and the British fight

well because they like fighting! We may not be a military nation; but, after 1914, it can never again be said that we are no longer a fighting race!

This article is chiefly about the manpower of Great Britain, but we do not forget the other reservoirs overseas. We can add in a very short time upwards of 100,000 overseas troops, comprising a large proportion of trained and seasoned men, to our Expeditionary Force. Should they be needed, the Dominions—even on a basis of one-fifth of their military-age men—could, and would, send 750,000. Moreover, we have the Indian troops, born fighting men, whose princes lead them in person.

We need always to avoid

"Such boasting as the Gentiles use
Or lesser breeds without the law."

But still, as we watch, as we have watched with our mind's eye for the last two months, the never-ceasing "march past" of our young heroes from every quarter of the Empire—bright, elastic, confident, in the splendour of their youth—and as we see in dim perspective the thousands who are ready to fall into that fighting-line, we remember Kipling's unforgettable song of the Native Born:

"A health to the Native born
(stand up)
We're six white men a-row,
All bound to sing of the little things we care about,
All bound to fight for the little things we care about
With the weight of a six-fold blow."

W.F. COAKER,
An Appreciation

W. F. COAKER, President of the F.P.U., is so well known that it would be superfluous to say much about him here. There is not a man more talked about in the whole length and breadth of Terra Nova, nor more respected by those who best know him or more feared by those who dread the breaking up of a long standing, political or commercial monopoly.

By sheer force of character, backed up and buttressed by indomitable pluck and sustained by a lively enthusiasm, he has overcome a fierce opposition that would have swamped an ordinary man. The quality above all others that has sustained him, perhaps we are right in saying has been enthusiasm, and a disinterested ambition to help the downtrodden.

To see the F.P.U. gain for its members the rights that have so long been denied our countrymen is the great ambition of his life, and surely that desired goal is now well in sight if not altogether attained.

Over twenty thousand fishermen look up to him for guidance, and a whole country is willing to listen when he speaks.

Rarely do men live to see the accomplishment of the aims when they essay such gigantic tasks, as Mr. Coaker has tackled but as he has confounded all preconceived notions of business and politics and set at naught all the old time prejudices, he may be expected to upset some of our ideas respecting the completion of great undertakings.

In labor he seems to thrive and business cares have not made one furrow in his brow. He seems to grow more vigorous day by day, and still sustains his repulsiion for direct and hard hitting, as his opponents—now growing fewer—can testify.

In business affairs, as in the House of Assembly he is a power to be reckoned with.

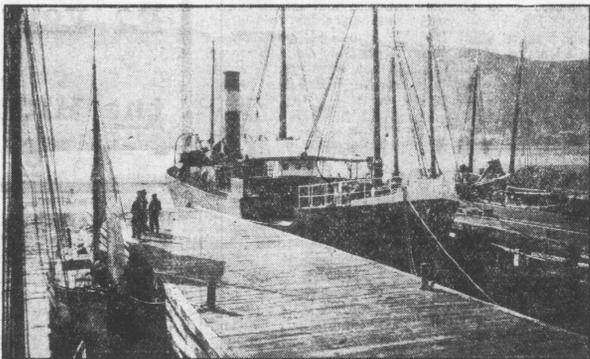
The Bear's Onward March

In the eastern theatre of war, the success of the Russian Bear seems assured. Winter is coming on—the Russians are prepared. They are a hardy race and cold does not affect them. We in Newfoundland consider ourselves hardy, but nevertheless we must also prepare ourselves to withstand the elements. To be comfortable during winter, dry feet are essential. You can have them by wearing only the Best Rubbers, i.e., Bear Brand. You can buy them from Monroe & Co. (have you seen the bear in their window?) W. R. Gooble, Nicholle, Inkpen & Chafe, Steer Bros., Jesse Whiteway and J. M. Devine.—deci

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We Would Make Them Better But We Can't

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