

At the close of the war the Volunteers and Local Militia both declined in strength; but the Statute under which the latter force was raised has never been repealed.

31. After the Ballot of 1810—which again produced substitutes rather than conscripts—Lord Castlereagh practically abandoned conscription for the General Militia, and during the war that force was raised by boat of drum at the expense of the Imperial Treasury. After the war the General Militia returned to its normal condition, and men, as needed, were raised by ballot, until in the year 1829, the ballot was suspended, and has so continued.

32. If, such, in brief terms, being the history of Conscription until its practical abandonment, the question for consideration presents itself—Is it expedient to revive conscription as a means of recruiting the Army or the General Militia—and, if so, to what extent? No doubt if the geographical position of this country were identical with that of Prussia or France it would be not only expedient, but absolutely necessary to resort to measures similar to those adopted by each of these countries for the formation of a large standing army with adequate reserves. And—even denying that necessity—it may not be altogether irrelevant to the object for which this memorandum is prepared to give a brief outline of the conscription which is the keystone to the systems in operation in Prussia under the law of 1867, and in France under the law of 1868.

33. *As to the Prussian system*—Under the political arrangements of Prussia every citizen is, in theory, liable to military service in time of war, though, practically, this obligation has been usually limited to service—

1st. In the Landsturm, between (say) 17 to 20 and 32 to 42 years of age.

2nd. In the Standing Army (according to one of its three divisions) between 20 to 32 years of age.

34. *As to Service in the Standing Army.*—Dismissing from present consideration the service in the Landsturm to explain the mode in which men are raised for the Standing Army, the system of the North German States appears to be as follows:

In time of peace the military force consists of three principal divisions:—1st. An active force. 2ndly. A reserve force. 3rdly. A Landwehr or sedentary militia. The original source of supply to the active force is an annual conscription from the male population (say 370,000, in number) attaining the age of 20 years in each year.

35. To insure this supply, the civil authorities record the ages and places of residence of males between the years of 17 and 42, and prepare alphabetical lists classed in years, of those who are liable to military service. On notice from the Civil authorities, those attaining the age of 20 present themselves in person for medical examination, as to their physical ability to serve in the Army. The medical report, and the claims (if any) for exemption are then considered by the proper authorities conducting the conscription, and the ballot, when taken, places (say) 100,000 conscripts in the ranks of the 1st Division—the active force of the Standing Army—and the residue (say) 270,000 men in the "Ersatz Reserve."

36. The conscript in the 1st Division is under an obligation to give military service to the State for a term of 12 years, which, in time of peace, is thus apportioned:

(a) In the active force for three years.

(b) In the reserve for four years.

(c) In the Landwehr for five years.

While throughout the term of 12 years each conscript, as being either on active service or on furlough, is liable to trial under

military law for any such offences as he may be guilty of.

(a.) The service in the active army during peace varies little from that in an English regiment at home quarters; and in war there is the same liability to serve *beyond as within* the borders of the State. The marriage of a soldier during this period is prohibited by the State.

(b.) After three years' service, if peace exists and continues, the soldier passes on furlough into the reserve for four years, during which period he is bound, on the call of the military authorities, to take part in two manœuvres of eight weeks' duration, but to give no other service to the State.

(c.) After these seven years of service, if peace continues to exist, the soldier passes on furlough into the Landwehr for five years, during which period he is bound (if called on by the military authorities) to exercise (in company or battalion) for two periods of eight to 14 days' duration.

37. *As to the Service in the Landsturm.*—After this 12 years of service the citizen is liable, until he attains the age of 42 years, to be called out in case a hostile invasion occurs, or be threatened against the Federal Dominion, to serve in the Landsturm.

38. The "Ersatz Reserve" consists of the residue of the conscripts not wanted for, or physically capable of, or (except in national extremity) exempt from military service, is divided into two classes. They serve in the first class for three years, and in the second for nine years. Those in the first class are liable during the first year to be taken into the Army to supply the vacancies of recruits rejected at the regiment, and during the remaining two years the vacancies caused by war or other circumstances, and which the annual conscription is not sufficient to meet. After the first class is exhausted, the second becomes liable to meet these deficiencies.

39. Hitherto the peace arrangements only have been considered; but to understand how the Army is brought upon a war footing, the administrative organization of the State must be referred to.

40. The principle that underlies the German organization is, that each corps d'armée and regiment is localised; this is, serves in the district in which it was raised, and seldom, save in the event of war, is moved out of it. The recruit, therefore, usually enters upon his army services in places and with associates familiar to him.

41. To secure this system the whole kingdom is parcelled off into Landwehr, corresponding to the civil districts. Out of each district a battalion is raised, and in each there is a permanent staff to superintend, amongst other things, the Landwehr, the Reserve, and the supply of recruits to the active force of the battalion or regiment raised in the district. These "districts" are again subdivided into "circles," from which companies are raised.

42. The recruiting or conscription is managed by the Ministry of the Interior, aided by that of War, having immediately under them the Presidents of Civil Government, and the generals in command. In each district there is an inferior authority (Department Ersatz Commission im Bezirk der Infanterie Brigade) composed of the civil and military officials reporting to the Ministers, and in each circle a commission of lower authority, composed of the chief civil agent, and the commander of the Landwehr battalions reporting to the district tribunal. The agents used for preparing the conscription lists, are the parish clergy and the officials holding the registers.

43. The reserves are absorbed into the active force, and the Army, in time of war,

thus becomes divided into two divisions only, the active force and the Landwehr. This absorption of the reserves is effected by the commander of the Landwehr district (through the agency of the provincial and provincial authorities) ordering all the reserve men on furlough to proceed to the headquarters of the Landwehr; and after medical examination, those that are fit for war service are formed into three battalions, and (as wanted) forwarded to their regiments by officers taking up recruits. The regimental system is therefore rigidly upheld, and the reserves bring up their old regiment or battalion to its war strength.

44. To answer for probable losses, a fourth or fifth battalion of 800 to 1,000 reserve men is raised for each regiment; and after this has been sent to the front, a fifth or sixth battalion is formed, till the reserve are exhausted.

45. In like manner the Landwehr is called up and embodied as a separate force, the service of which is usually in the district, to hold garrisons, and keep open all the lines of communication from the base to the field of operations.

46. Certain exemptions from the conscription are conceded; but as neither substitution nor purchase of exemption is allowed, the service of the conscript is strictly personal. That scientific and industrial education may be as little interfered with as possible, young men, at the age of 17 years, are permitted in time of peace to volunteer to serve in the active force for one year at their own cost. If at the expiration of the year they are found competent in military knowledge, they can be at once passed into the reserve for the term of six years, under the ordinary obligation of rejoining the active force in case of war.

47. The appointment of officers (which is peculiar) need not be referred to here, other than by saying that in time of peace there is no cadre to the reserves and Landwehr.

48. In the Reserves, officers, without any limit as to number, are appointed sub lieutenants of the regiment. Each has to qualify for the appointment by service, but though qualified he cannot be elected unless he holds from all the officers of the regiment in which he has served, a testimonial of fitness, both in a military and social point of view. He has then to be proposed by the commander of this Landwehr regiment to, and to be accepted by, the officers. Having gained these suffrages, he is presented to the King for his commission; and, unless called into the active army; he is a member of the local corps of Landwehr officers for four years, after which his service may be renewed for a maximum period of 12 years.

49. In the Landwehr the regimental staff is not kept up, and the battalion staff consists only of the commanding officer with an adjutant, one non-commissioned officer as clerk, and two men as orderlies. When officers are needed they are obtained partly by transfer of active and reserve officers, and partly by the promotion of qualified Landwehr men. Their election, appointment, and commission are the same as in the case of an officer of reserve.

50. The class in society from which the officers are usually drawn consists of country gentlemen, landed proprietors, lawyers, &c., who, by serving for one year as volunteers in the active army, have qualified for their appointments.

51. *As to the French system.*—Under the law of the empire, as decreed in February 1868, the military forces of France are divided into two distinct bodies, each body being recruited by conscription, founded upon the fundamental principle that every citizen