

good character and physique, then these 55,000 men can step at once into the ranks as fit and fighting material, and we need no longer fear the scandal of our ever-increasing percentage of desertions, nor contemplate the long rolls of death and disease caused by the immature youths. We would be saved the humiliation of seeing about one-third of our Regular Army classed as unserviceable, and the staff of our battalions would be saved the time and worry of feeding up a weakened body to undergo the tedious study of being made into a soldier.

The different counties of the United Kingdom would receive their annual contingents at specified centres to undergo the first annual training, which need not be more than for a period of six months. In the second and subsequent years the drill could be carried out at the headquarters of the Militia Army Corps—of which the Secretary of State for War states there are to be three, one in England, one in Scotland, and one in Ireland—for as long as the militiaman is in the First or Active Reserve, say for a period of five years.

The militiaman would then pass into the Second or War Reserve; he would then be liable to attend manoeuvres for a shorter period of time, and after say five years, he would pass into the Third or Home Reserve, and be exempt from military service, except in the event of the country being threatened or invaded.

In Switzerland it is the law that all men who are exempt from military service on account of some legal disability, should be subject to special taxation, where such are taxed at the rate of per man, and Is. 6d. on each £50 of net income; it would appear only fair that exemption from a national duty should be paid for in all countries.

The Artillery and Cavalry branches of the services require a longer training than does the Infantry, and the full proportion of these arms must be maintained in the Militia as much as in the Regular Army. It is well to mention here that it is only fair and reasonable that all retired officers of the Regular Army should, if they receive pensions, be liable for service in the Militia Forces. The enormous non-effective list caused by the retirement of officers who are still in the vigor of life, is becoming a severe burden

upon the public, and there is no justification for it. Besides the employment of able professional officers will be not only a benefit, but almost a necessity when the Militia system is extended.

The duties at the Militia depots and centres will require a large staff of able non-commissioned officers and men. These can be found by employing men of the Regular Army when these have fulfilled their full service with the colors. It may be urged that such employment may weaken the Reserve, but this loss will be more than compensated for by the great inducement which lengthened military service will hold out to men who desire to make the military service their profession. With the advanced rate of pay which Mr. Brodrick proposes to introduce, and the increased prospects of permanent employment, there need be little fear of the 55,000 men who are required annually for the Regular Army not being obtained from the Militia who have completed their annual training.

I do not dwell further on, or enter into the details of a possible organization which may be necessary on the introduction of universal military service into the United Kingdom, except to state that the seaboard countries should provide a contribution to the Naval Reserve on the same principle as obtains now in France and Germany; which countries have at command a large and well-drilled body of seamen to man their navy in the event of war, and to fill up casualties during its continuance.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE IN CANADA.

Canada has a population of 5,338,000 people, and a revenue of \$51,000,000; a frontier of about 60 degrees of longitude divides her from a people counting over 70,000,000, and possessing a revenue of \$670,000,000. If Canada were a nation free and independent, without any claim upon and not forming a part of a great and mighty Empire, she would in case of disagreement with the United States fall within the fullest scope of the Monroe Doctrine, and await with mixed feelings the slow but sure progress of the law of attraction by cohesion. The peoples north and south of this arbitrary boundary are alike in civilization, race and religion, they mix freely, they intermarry, and carry on business with-