

strength. It is in the matter of the men to man our fleet and the reserve behind them that our great difficulty lies. In 1901 our naval reserve was only 28,000, whereas 80,000 was necessary. Continental Powers by means of compulsory service command a full supply of highly trained seamen with which to man their fleet and to fill up the waste caused by war.

Connected with the difficulty of establishing a sufficient naval reserve is the ever increasing proportion of foreigners in our mercantile marine. This proportion has risen from 9 per cent. in 1860 to 40.1 per cent. in 1899, and to 45 per cent. in 1900!! To show how inadequate our present naval reserve is it may be necessary to state that when it was urged that "There should always be an effective reserve squadron absolutely confined to home waters, sufficient to hold the Channel and protect the coasts and commerce," The Lords of the Admiralty replied, "This would be impossible."

Enough will have been shown to prove that, according to our present voluntary system, we are unable to maintain our naval reserve in sufficient and effective strength to insure an ample supply of seamen to man all the vessels of war we may desire to equip, and to have besides a sufficiency of well-trained seamen to fill up the casualties and waste of war.

#### THE ARMY.

Before considering the strength of what may be deemed our necessary military organisation for defence, it is in the first instance necessary to take note of the armed strength of those nations, some of whom might be led into taking part in a hostile demonstration against us, and we must compare their numbers with the army which Great Britain can put into the field, first for home defence and secondly, to protect any distant part of our widely scattered Empire.

#### Armed Strength of European Powers.

Austria-Hungary.. . . .	3,900,000
Belgium.. . . .	155,000
France.. . . .	4,666,000
Denmark.. . . .	53,000
Germany.. . . .	6,213,000
Italy.. . . .	3,325,000
Netherlands.. . . .	130,000

Russia.. . . .	4,000,000
Sweden and Norway.. . . .	399,000
Spain.. . . .	750,000
Switzerland.. . . .	249,000
Turkey.. . . .	800,000

The British army of 713,000 is exclusive of the native army in India, but includes 10,000 European volunteers in that country. But before accepting the numbers of 713,000, it is advisable to look into the details which go to make up this total, for we will see upon examination that very large deductions will have to be made from those particular items which make up the most effective numbers of our regularly trained forces:

The Regular Army at home and abroad, including India, &c. . .	232,340
The Reserve is estimated at. . .	78,839
The Militia, including the militia reserve. . . . .	110,950

Or a total of soldiers who have undergone regular training of 421,139

The regular army has always been kept up on the voluntary system, and it can be most confidently stated that this voluntary system has invariably been found to fall in time of greatest need, whenever it became necessary to increase the army or in time of war. On such occasions it has been found necessary to resort to offers of bounties to attract soldiers into enlisting. The wages given to the soldier have always been inadequate to induce men to quit the more advantageous prospect of civil life. The bounties offered to recruits have varied from £3 in 1743 to £16 in 1803, and £8 to £10 in 1855. In 1900 as much as £22 was offered to men in the reserve battalions for one year's engagement, and £10 had then to be offered to recruits for the Militia.

But it has not only been found necessary to offer money inducements; it was besides necessary to reduce the physical standard and the limit of age on enlistment, so that mere weeds of boys were allowed to enter the ranks of our fighting army. Even these means are insufficient to keep up our establishments, for Gen. G. S. Clarke says in 1900 that the Militia was 27,830 below strength, the Yeomanry 1,739 and the Volunteers 34,276. In 1901-1902 the army establishment of 898,452 had a deficiency of 142,870. Recruits cannot be obtained in sufficient numbers, and