

urges that universal military service would injure business and trade. But that this is not the case is shown by the result in Germany, where increase in trade and commerce has gone hand in hand with increased strictness in military universal service; indeed employers have universally stated that the habits of discipline and punctuality inculcated by military training have proved of the greatest benefit. Inasmuch as universal military service means a better insurance against possible national ruin, it is advantageous to every man, woman and child who has an interest in the maintenance of our Empire. Others urge that universal military service would prove an intolerable burden. But why? and upon whom? Tens of thousands bear the burden voluntarily now, and these are men of business and activity employed in civil affairs. No! the burden is so described most generally by men who are constitutionally lazy and opposed to even so short a restriction upon their comfort and idleness. This so-called burden would by such a class be gladly bought off by the continued maintenance of an expensive and inefficient standing Army.

Universal military service may be a sacrifice to many, but is it not a proud privilege to be allowed to offer sacrifice for the maintenance of our heritage and for the defence of our homes? Surely all classes are agreed that the protection of our families and properties is not only a duty laid upon every able-bodied man, but is the proudest duty upon which he can be employed. Our nobility has shown its readiness to share in the risks and hardships of a foreign war. Our middle classes have given up comfort and safety to protect the boundaries of the realm. The "common soldier," Thomas Atkins, has once more borne himself not only as a brave hut as Lord Roberts calls him a "gentle" man. The spirit to dare and to suffer, to bear and to endure, is as paramount in the Briton of to-day as it ever was in the Briton of the past. Should occasion show that universal military service is necessary for the defence of the Empire, there can be no doubt as to the response which the Nation will give when the question is asked.

I believe I have shown that such a course is necessary. I believe that this great question will shortly be put. To

prepare for such a contingency, I have ventured to put forward facts and figures so as to prepare the minds of those among whom I am now placed. In my next letters I will venture to deal with the military question under universal military service, and offer suggestions as to how our defensive position may be bettered without imposing unreasonable strain upon our economic resources, especially in Canada.

IV.

UNIVERSAL MILITARY SERVICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The nations of Europe who make universal service the basis of their military power, call upon their manhood in following proportion:

Austria-Hungary, about one man for every 20 of population.

Belgium, about one man for every 30 of population.

France, about one man for every 11 of population.

Denmark, about one man for every 20 of population.

Germany, about one man for every 16 of population.

Italy, about one man for every 24 of population.

The United Kingdom, with her population of 38 millions, could, therefore, easily raise 2,000,000 men, but her insular position does not render such a force necessary, and exemptions might be allowed to classes who are not exempt in such countries as France and Germany. Besides it is reasonable to believe that the voluntary spirit which has taken such a hold upon the British race would lead a very large proportion of our young men to voluntarily acquire a military training, which would exempt them from the annual course of training to which others would become liable.

The Regular Forces, inasmuch as they have to serve abroad, must continue to be composed of volunteers. At present it is estimated that 55,000 recruits are required to maintain the effective strength of the 232,500 which composes the Regular Army. Now, if the regular forces are supplied only from men of the Militia who have completed their annual training, who have acquired certificates of having passed in drill and shooting, and who are of