

**SWITZERLAND'S
War Mobilization,
Horse Regulations
AND
Arguments for Universal
Military Service**

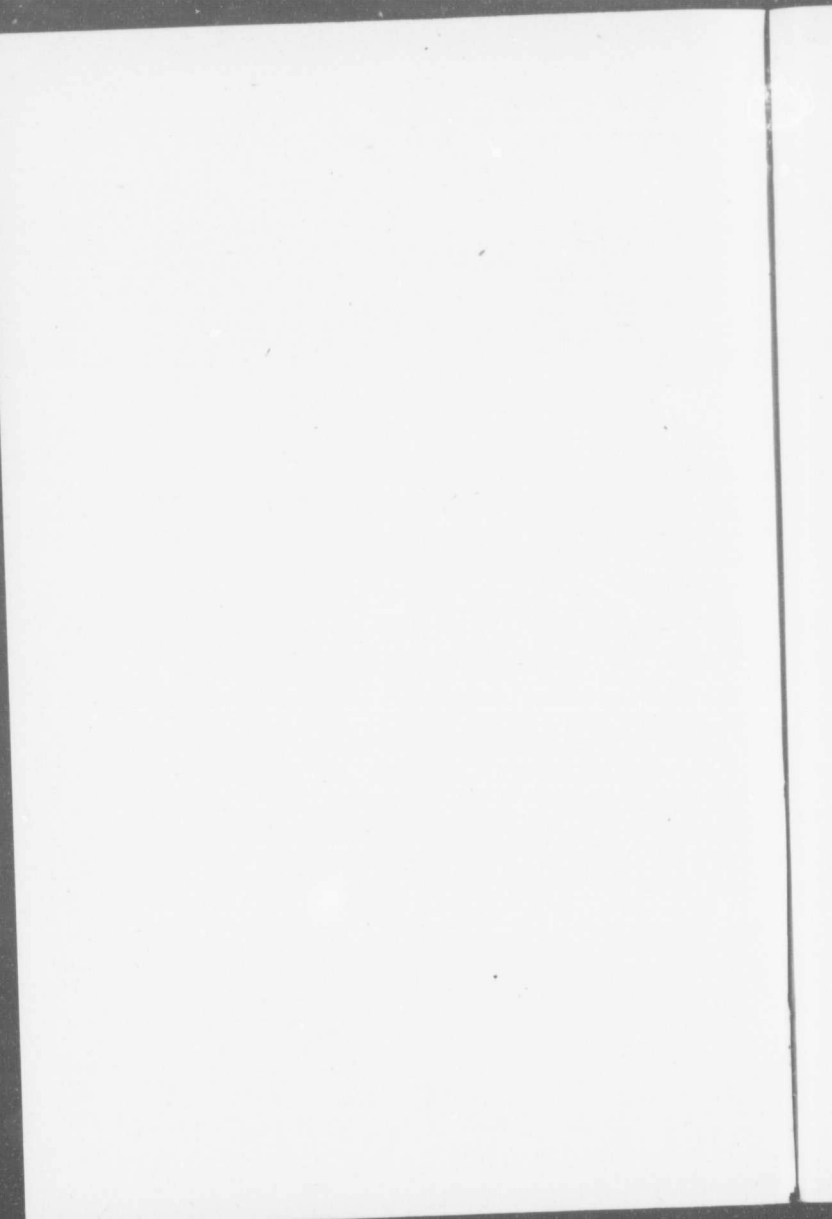
—BY—

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Honorary President Canadian Military Institute

President Canadian Defence League

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Canadian Military Institute for 1913-15**





CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE TORONTO

Original building (245 Simcoe St.) purchased 1905.

Corner stone of first addition on University Avenue, including library and club-room, laid by His Excellency the Governor-General Earl Grey on 29th Aug., 1907.

Property adjoining to South (243 Simcoe St.) purchased 1910.

Corner stone of second addition on University Avenue laid by Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught Governor-General on 18th May, 1912.

Building and alterations completed in 1913.

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President, 1905-14—Colonel Wm. Hamilton Merritt.

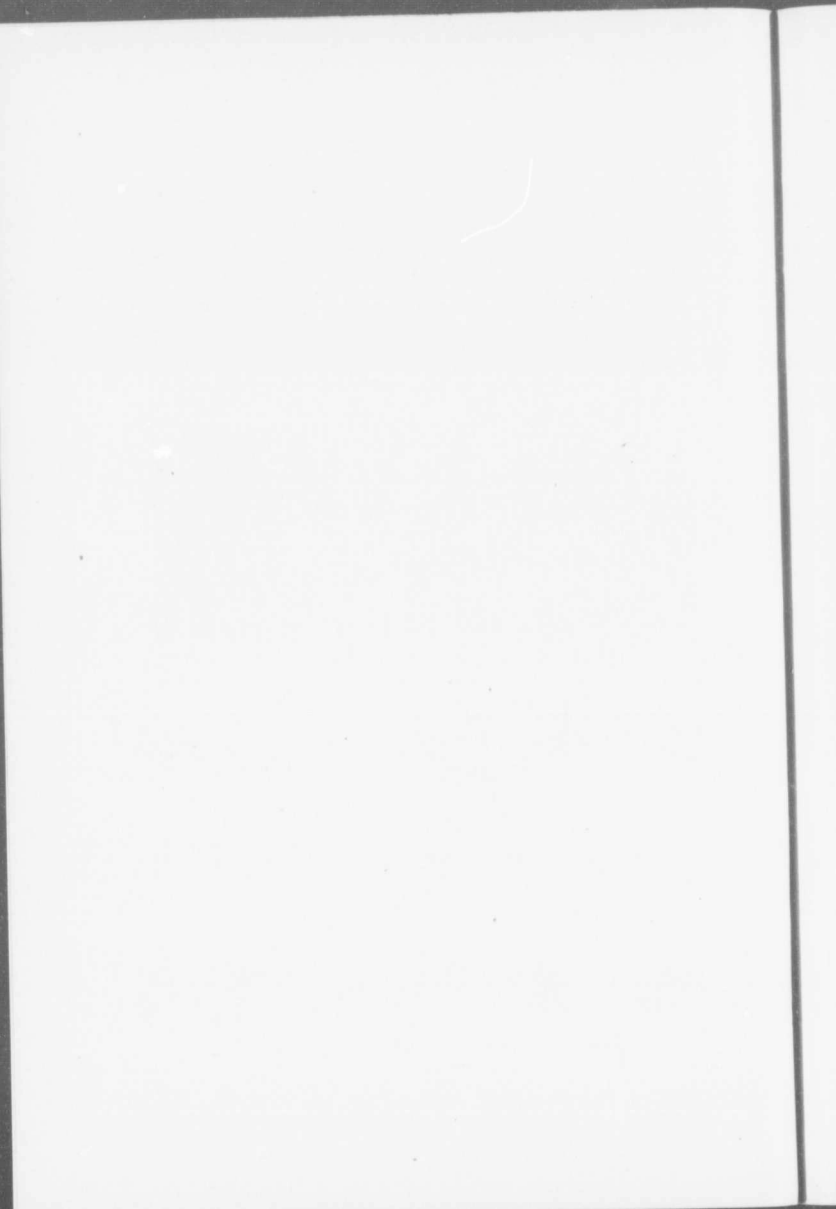
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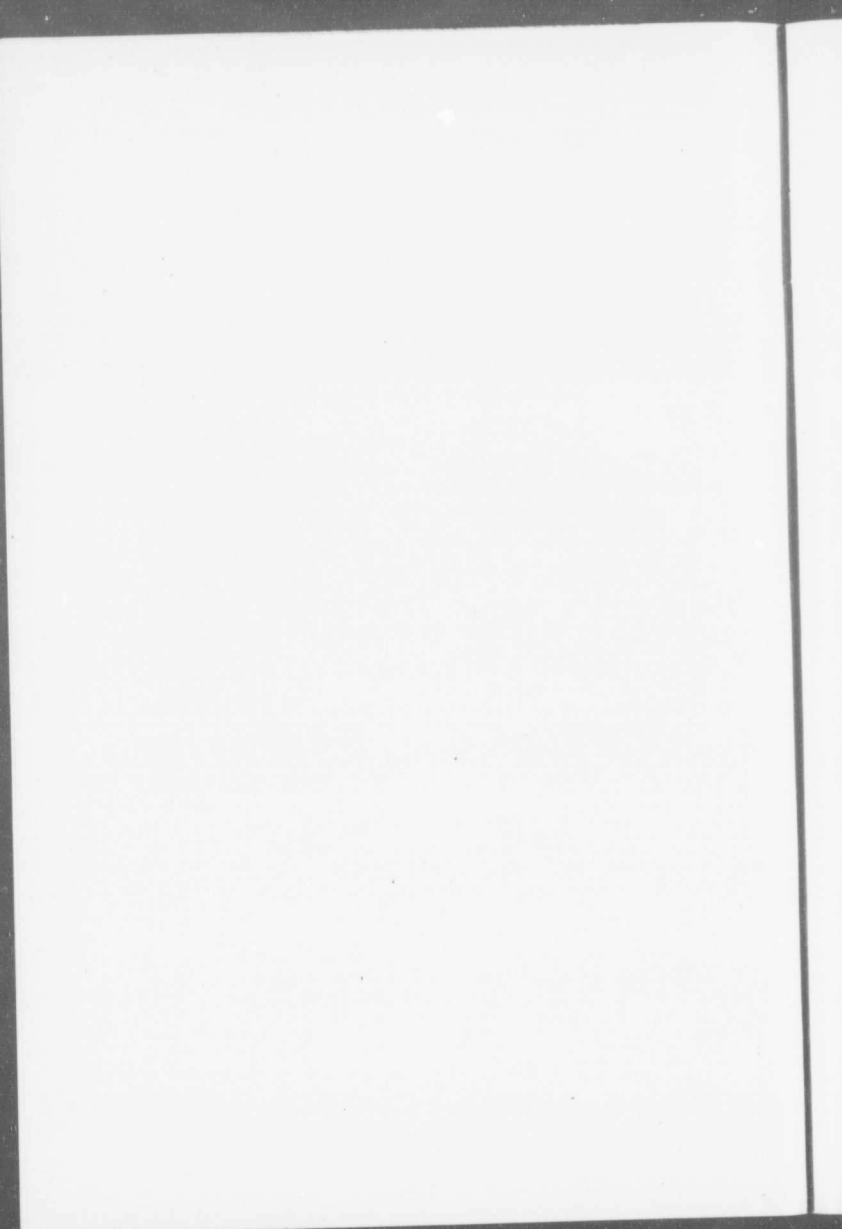
Cost (exclusive of contents) \$40,295.95.





PERVERSION BY THE KAISER !

William II., Emperor of Germany, at the Swiss Manoeuvres of 1912, in conversation with General Byers, Commander of the Federal forces of South Africa. The Swiss Military System formed the basis of the new South African Military Act adopted soon after. General Byers turned rebel in 1914 and was drowned crossing the Vaal when flying before General Botha's forces, no doubt the outcome of this depicted conversation, and if so who will say that the Kaiser's plans for the great War of 1914, &c., were not well under way in 1912 !



SWISS HORSE REGULATIONS

By Lt.-Col. Wm. Hamilton Merritt, O. C., 1st Mtd. Bde.
Pres. Can. Cav. Assoc.; Pres. Can. Def. League;
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Presented in connection with Illustrations of the Swiss Manoeuvres,
at the Institute on 18th February, 1913

Delay in issuing this number of the Transactions, caused by the war, has enabled me to give, as a species of preface, some notes on the Horse Mobilization in Switzerland in August, 1914.

On the 31st of July the Swiss Government, appreciating the seriousness of the outlook, issued a proclamation of "Standing Picket" of the Swiss Army. Among other things this included the prohibition of exportation of horses, mules and vehicles, and no one is allowed to dispose of those in his possession. Under this proclamation the provisions of the Swiss Military Law requires the Communes to immediately revise their horse and wagon lists.

Early next morning, August 1st, the roads leading to the field behind the schoolhouse were alive with led horses and a certain number of vehicles. At 7 o'clock the checking-over of a clearly written list began. The list of owners' names were spread on a table and checked by a commune official, while the animals were inspected by another official, who suggested notes as to their suitability for service and to which branch they might be posted.

Whenever a man buys a horse in Switzerland he must report the same to his Commune, as he is obliged to produce it for service in time of war and also bring it twice a year for inspection, as well as on an occasion such as above.

A few days later, August 4th, I was able to see the horses from the Communes in that District being inspected and classified at one of the centres (Thum). There was a stretched rope for each separate Commune, with its name written on a board at the end near the road. About a dozen rows stretched one after the other, and some distance below the last was found one for rejected horses.

The Commune list, with the observations made at the Commune inspection, is placed before a valuing commission who accept or reject the horse and place a value upon it in case it is killed. The maximum value put on a saddle horse is \$360 and on a team horse \$240. (From 50 cents to a dollar a day is paid the owner under varying circumstances.) Accepted horses are then led to another commission which classifies them, "officers," "battery," "train," etc., and they are led to lines marked accordingly. This inspection of commune horses lasted from Tuesday to Friday, four days.

The above description does not include the cavalry horses, other

than to provide spare horses at depots for the same, every cavalry man having his own horse at his home, and riding it to mobilization. Besides these cavalry horses and some 850 for officers at the Horse Regie, there are about 120,000 now taken over from owners for artillery, transport, etc., and to form a reserve, and these reserve horses are looked after by reserve (Landwehr) cavalry. For example, Interlaken is a depot and some 250 reserve horses are billeted about in that town and looked after by a squadron of Landwehr Dragoons, who are only a reserve without horses, the Elite (or active) cavalry alone being horsed in the Swiss System.

The number of horses and mules called out under the mobilization were some 55,843, and there remained in the Country an uncalled reserve of some 64,158.

HORSE SYSTEM

The horses required for the Army are provided by two totally different establishments—

- (1) The Remount Depot at Berne, and
- (2) The Horse "Regie" at Thun.

Therefore the Horse Administration of the Swiss Army comes under two general headings—The Cavalry, and a Department for other horses.

As the Regulations governing the Cavalry horses have been translated, and are reproduced in full below, I will first give some notes on the horsing of that part of the Army which comes under the Horse "Regie" at Thun.

THE HORSE REGIE

The Horse Regie is one of the branches of the Military Department. Mounted Officers (other than Cavalry Officers) need only keep a horse when out for training and are allowed to hire this horse from the Horse Regie.

The horses required by the men of the Artillery and of the other arms of the Service (except Cavalry) are obtained through the Horse Regie.

The Horse "Regie" (situated at Thun) purchases, acclimatizes and trains horses for officers who may purchase them. It also rents horses to officers for use at the schools and courses. In 1910 they had 853 horses which performed 139,788 days of service in the year. It also looks after providing horses to the artillery and other arms of the service with the exception of the cavalry. This is done by hiring from private persons and contractors those required after its supply is exhausted. The Horse Regie forms the nucleus for the 15 horse depots formed in the time of war for the supply of horses to the field army. A horse census is taken every ten years, and the Confederation may issue an order preventing the sale of any horse in case of war. In 1908 there were 116,357 horses and mules available in Switzerland. These were classified as follows. Horses trained for, or fit for, the saddle (excluding Cavalry)—for Officers 6630— for

N.C.O.'s 6444. Team horses fit for service—for Field batteries 22,558, for transport 29,953, for heavy trucks 9240. Pack Mules 2231. Horses which could be used in case of need 18,517. Horses and mules classed as unfit 20,784.

In case of mobilization the Regie furnishes saddle horses to the officers designated in a special regulation.

The Horse Regie has at its head a Director who has a staff of an Asst Director, 3 Vet. Officers and 2 riding masters and necessary employees numbering some two hundred odd.

The functions of the Horse Regie in time of peace may be said to be—

- (A) To purchase, acclimatize and train horses for officers in case of war.
- (B) To rent chargers to officers for Schools and Courses of Instruction.
- (C) To sell to Officers trained saddle-horses with the stipulation that they must keep them for three years.
- (D) Training and keeping Officers chargers.
- (E) Encouraging horsemanship, by means of courses of equitation, and by furnishing horses for military equitation.
- (F) Training riding masters, horsemen, conductors and grooms.
- (G) Administration of the depot for the artillery horses of the Confederation.
- (H) The central direction of the furnishing of horses to the schools and courses of the Army.

As was pointed out in the 1812 Transactions mounted officers must have a horse. The Confederation assists mounted officers to acquire, train and keep saddle horses. Officers of the rank of Lt.-Col. and above in the Elite, and General Staff Officers in the General Staff or in staffs of the Elite, are given an allowance for forage and 40c a day for grooming etc. as an annual allowance.

CONFEDERATION ARTILLERY HORSES

The depot of Artillery Horses of the Confederation, administered by the Horse Regie, is designed to assure in the Country to the Military Administration, for the needs of the Army, a certain number of horses well trained to the saddle and harness. With this object there are purchased in the Country horses of approved strain and a minimum height of 154 centimetres, and of an age from 5 to 7 years. The Artillery horses of the Confederation are trained to the saddle and to the harness, and then employed during the course of the year in Schools and Artillery Courses. At the end of the year, the horses are sold by auction and the depot done away with.

In the Schools and Courses, Artillery Confederation Horses are accepted before the horses of private owners.

The Horse Regie keeps a list of the Owners of Confederation Artillery Horses, as well as the places where they can be procured.

In 1911 there were 62 Artillery Horses at the Artillery Horse Depot which did an average of 172 days' service each, and which cost some \$3500 above receipts.

HIRING OF HORSES

Where horses from the Horse Regie, or Artillery Confederation Horses are not employed for military service, the Administration hires the necessary horses. The Central Administration of the furnishing of horses is controlled by the Director of the Horse Regie, who has under him a certain number of officers for the hiring of horses. The number of horses (for harness) is fixed by the Swiss Military Department for each School and each Course, then communicated to the Central direction of the furnishing of horses.

The Officers for hiring the horses serve as intermediary between the Commandants of the Schools or Courses and the Proprietors or Furnishers of Horses at the Place D'Armes of mobilization. Once the Swiss Military Department has fixed the price for hiring, the Officers for hiring horses conclude the contracts with the Contractors, these Contracts are submitted to the general directors for ratification.

The dividing up for the Schools and Courses is done by the Hiring Horse Officers according to the instructions of the Central Direction. The Hiring Officers are charged with the requisition of the horses. They are estimated by experts at their entrance into service and appreciated at the termination of the same. The Commissions for estimation are composed of two experts named for each mobilizing place by the Swiss Military Department, and the valuation is not above \$360 for a saddle horse and \$240 for a team horse, a report is made out after each valuation. The horses hired are numbered on the outside of their hoofs.

In Switzerland there are three main Departments for the hiring of horses, and the amount paid varies from 60c to \$1.20 per day, varying with the time of the year and the nature of the work to be accomplished.

As an example of the horses rented for training in 1911 in the school of recruits 1789 Horses and 146 Mules were hired and in the repetition courses for the same year 12,921 horses and 245 mules.

FURNISHING OF HORSES IN CASE OF WAR MOBILIZATION

The Confederation reserves the right to control all the horses which are in the Country to the extent that the Army has need of them. Once the calling out is decided on, the Federal Council enacts a "Standing Picket" of the Horses. From the moment of the publication of the "Standing Picket," horses cannot be sold without military authority. At once the examination of all horses is proceeded with, and the restriction is removed for horses found unfit for service.

To prepare for the furnishing of horses on mobilization, it is laid down that the Communes and the Cantons must furnish their horses at the assembling places for the troops, where the valuation is carried out

as in time of peace. The partitioning and the distribution of the horses to the troops is carried out by the Officers for the Furnishing of Horses. The preparations of the Cantons and the Communes are checked by Officers of the General Staff and the Officers for the Hiring of Horses.

On war mobilization the horses in the Horse Regie depot are employed to mount Staff Officers and certain other Officers of senior rank. All other officers are ordered to provide their own horses, and if unable to do so before joining their units, are mounted on requisitioned horses.

OBLIGATION OF COMMUNES

The Communes (corresponding to our Townships) and their inhabitants are obliged to furnish quarters and food to the troops and to the horses, places to park vehicles, and to aid in any required transportation. For these services they receive a proper remuneration. Every ten years, or when necessary, a Census is taken by Communes and by Cantons of the horses and mules fit for service. Owners must bring the horses to indicated place gratuitously; they are responsible for all expense arising from their omission or negligence.

Each Commune keeps the list of the horses, mules and vehicles of its territory, and it is responsible that horses and mules fit for service are sent by a given time to a given place where they are valued by a special board appointed in time of peace for that purpose.

SYSTEM FOR CAVALRY

In my previous papers before this Institute in 1906 and 1909, I have given information on the System in vogue in Switzerland by which the Cavalry is supplied with its horses. The translation of the Regulations existing for this department of their Service is given below and may be found of interest, and perhaps of some use. As I have already indicated in the papers above mentioned and in the 1912 transactions, it will be noted that there is a remount depot at Berne for training Cavalry horses, which are purchased wherever they can find suitable horses, largely in Ireland. The horses are bought between the ages of two and a half and four years, and at Berne there is a Remount Depot which trains them. For example in 1912-1915 Remounts were trained. A Cavalryman must either purchase a horse from the Government at half its estimated value or, if the man has an acceptable horse, the Government may pay him half its value. The man in either case receiving one-tenth of the half value for each repetition course of training for ten years, at the end of which time he becomes absolute owner of the horse.

The man has the use of the horse, and must house, feed and care for it properly, all of which is verified by an Officer.

Cavalry Officers may purchase their chargers on the same terms as the men. The second charger which they may need for Course of In-

struction may be obtained from the Horse Regie on the same conditions as for other Mounted Officers of the Army.

Forage is only issued for horses when out for training; at other times they are kept by the men at their own expense.

The number of horses at the Cavalry Remount Depot on the First of January was, Remounts 999 and Depot Horses 386, a total of 1385.

COST

Previous to reproducing the Cavalry Horse Regulations the cost of horsing the Swiss army for the year 1912 may throw a good deal of light on their system and therefore extracts to this end are taken from the State accounts of the Swiss Confederation.

Horse Regie

Receipts	Expenditures
Rent of horses.....\$136,020	Salaries.....\$ 9,000
Bonus for depreciation and death..... 8,262	Permanent Employees..... 7,150
From sale of horses..... 21,000	Employees, day wages..... 49,500
Increase in value..... 6,540	Misc..... 1,000
Misc..... 12,600	Forage..... 54,660
Profit from Artillery Horse Dept..... 6,900	Shoeing..... 1,600
	Veterinary..... 360
	Purchases..... 34,000
	Interest on Capital, &c... 15,000
\$191,322	\$172,270
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures.....	\$ 19,050

Depot of Artillery Horses (Horse Regie)

Receipts	Expenditures
Sale of horses.....\$12,600	Purchase of horses.....\$10,000
Rent of horses..... 6,200	Keep of horses..... 1,000
Depreciation..... 70	Salaries..... 800
	Misc..... 170
\$18,870	\$11,970
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures.....	\$ 6,900

Cavalry Horses

Purchase of Horses.....	\$272,100
Salaries.....	7,340
Employees Permanent.....	12,700
Employees by Day.....	100,000
Forage.....	124,000
Shoeing.....	3,000
Veterinary Expenses.....	11,600
Miscellaneous.....	3,000
Remount Courses.....	97,200
Abatements.....	80,000
Inspections of Horses.....	2,600
Repurchase of Horses.....	50,000
Total.....	\$744,140
Less Receipts from Sales of Horses.....	230,152
Total Cavalry Horse Cost.....	\$513,988

COST TO SWITZERLAND FOR HORSES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES FOR 1912

Cavalry Horse Outlay.....	\$513,988
Allowance to Officers having right to a horse.....	25,600
Allowance 14 Horse Rations at \$350.....	4,900
Compensation for injury to horses used by Staff.....	3,600
" " " " Infantry.....	25,500
" " " " Cavalry.....	10,600
" " " " Artillery.....	37,000
" " " " Engineers.....	1,500
" " " " Fortress Troops.....	3,000
" " " " Medical Service.....	2,500
" " " " Veterinary Service.....	460
" " " " Transport Service.....	2,000
Hiring of Artillery Horses for School of Recruits.....	110,000
Hiring of Horses for Artillery for Repetition Courses.....	100,600
Total.....	\$841,248
Less Receipts from Horse "Regie".....	19,050
Total Cost for Military Horses to Confederation for 1912.....	\$822,198

REGULATIONS FOR CAVALRY HORSES

December 21, 1908

The Swiss Federal Council, by virtue of Articles 75 to 84 of the Military Organization of 12th April, 1907, orders:

I.—QUALITY OF HORSES AND TRAINING

1. It is only permitted to purchase and accept for the Cavalry such horses as are suitable in their blood, build and gait for riding, and moreover which possess qualities that will permit them to be employed for other purposes than military service. No horses can be accepted of a color too easily seen unless they possess exceptional qualities. At the time of purchase the horses should be 3 1-2 years old at least; they should stand not less than 14 3-4 hands, nor, as a rule, more than 15 3-4 hands. Horses over six years of age can only be accepted for riders who have but a few more years to serve in the Elite.
2. The horses purchased are acclimatized at the Cavalry remount depot, they are prepared there for the remount courses by appropriate work, both in harness and under the saddle.
3. The horses are trained in the remount courses for 110 days with military and civilian service in view. Only horses acclimatized and fit for work can be sent to these courses.
4. Before sending the horses to the remount courses, they have the year of recruitment and the federal cross burnt on the right shoulder and their number on the left shoulder.
5. Rigs which cannot be operated upon, restive and vicious horses, those blind in one eye, blind, short-winded, balkers, incurably lame or with other maladies, must be destroyed, struck off, or sold by auction. The horses struck off the roll are marked on the left ear.
6. Officers, cavalry recruits, and cavalrymen are authorized to supply their own horses, and permission for this must be requested from the Chief of the cavalry service. These horses once admitted are sent to the depot to be prepared for the remount course, after having a provisional price put on them on account of the risks to which they are exposed during the period of the training.
7. Private horses, namely those supplied by the rider, if within ten days they are found to have blemishes or faults which would make doubtful their fitness for the service, must be returned to their owners, without compensation. On receiving the horses the Depot exacts the signing of an agreement to this end.

II.—VALUATION OF HORSES

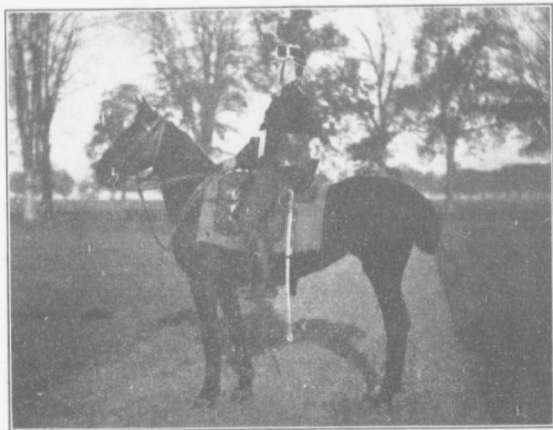
- 8 All the remount horses intended for the recruits are valued after their training, at the time of the inspection of the remount courses,



THE HORSE REGIE ADMINISTRATION

Inspection of horses from tributary Communes at Geneva, Switzerland on 3rd August, 1914. One of the acts of war mobilization.

Every Commune held its own inspection on 1st Aug., 1914



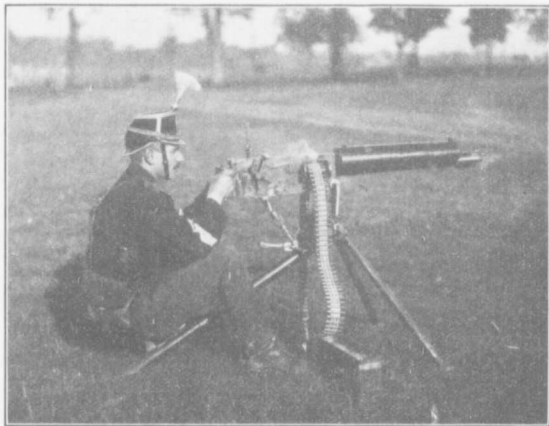
SWISS CAVALRY

A Dragoon



SWISS CAVALRY

A section of a Cavalry Machine Gun Company showing pack-horse with Machine Gun, and behind it pack-horse with ammunition.



SWISS CAVALRY

A Cavalry Machine Gun in Action

by a commission composed of the Chief of the cavalry service, the chief veterinary officer, and the commander of the remount depot.

9. According to their valuation, the horses are classed in the following categories: \$320, \$280, \$240 and \$200.
10. Horses intended for officers are valued by the Commanding Officer of the Depot and the Chief Veterinary Officer, or a substitute for the latter, who take for standard the maximum valuation fixed in the rules of the administration.
11. Horses supplied by cavalrymen, substitute horses trained at the remount depot, and horses taken back for any reason whatever, and intended to be handed over again to the cavalrymen, are valued by the Commanding Officer at the remount depot and the Chief Veterinary Officer, or a delegate of the latter.
12. The first valuation serves as a base for determining the value of returned horses, in this sense, that the original value of the horses diminishes by one fifteenth each year of service. In addition, if the serviceableness of the horse was notably diminished by new defects, the valuation must again be diminished in consequence. In this calculation fractions over \$10 count as \$20, and less than \$10 are not counted at all.
13. The horses thrown out are estimated, with a view to sell by auction, by the Commanding Officer of the depot, who need have no consideration for the previous valuation.

III.—DELIVERY OF THE HORSES TO OFFICERS, TO THE RECRUITS, TO SOLDIERS REQUIRING A REMOUNT AND TO THIRD-PARTY-HOLDERS.

(a) Instruction for delivering and for selling by auction. General.

14. The sale of horses to officers, to recruits, to soldiers requiring a remount, and to the third-party-holders, takes place at the cavalry remount depot and in the Recruiting Schools. The following is the procedure:
15. For the sale of horses, the riders and the horses will be divided into two or more classes, according to stoutness or height. Each cavalryman is authorized to give notice that he requires a horse of his own class.
16. Before accepting offers, the age, the build and the estimated price of horses are announced; then the horses are shown off at a walk and at a trot. Blemishes, faults and important defects, as well as the peculiarities in character, are announced.
17. If a man gives out that he is disposed to take a horse, which is absolutely unsuitable for him in the matter of weight, size and temperament, the Commandant must refuse to let him have it.

18. Horses are disposed of at the estimated price provided that several cavalymen do not want the same horse. A horse which is desired by several is put up at auction between them. Bids under \$4 or over \$10 are not allowed. If the bid exceeds by \$80 the estimated price, the bidders who have made the maximum offer draw lots. Bidders who want the same horse are not allowed to draw lots before the auction. The difference between the estimated price and the highest bid will not be refunded later on.
19. The sale of horses is organized and superintended by the commandant, and executed by the officer-instructors, the troop-officers, and the non-commissioned officers.
20. Before disposing of horses, the manner of proceeding is explained to the buyers, and an opportunity is given them and their near relatives to examine the horses in their stables.
21. As soon as a horse is declared to be sold, the name and address of the purchaser, as well as, when necessary, the highest bid, are written in ink (in figures and letters) in the report of the transaction, an officer certifying by his signature the correctness of the entries.
22. Men who refuse to accept delivery of a horse can be dismissed from the cavalry on the motion of the Chief of the cavalry service.
23. A little book is given to each purchaser of a cavalry horse. In this little book is set down: the year of recruitment, the number, the sex, the age, etc., of the horse; the social conditions of the purchaser the service done by the horse, and the state in which it is at the beginning and at the end of each service.

(b) Supply of Horses to Officers

24. The Confederation provides a saddle-horse, fit for service, to cavalry officers, who, in virtue of article 75 of the military organization, are obliged to possess one permanently, namely:—
 - a—On the conditions fixed for the cavalymen in these regulations.
 - b—At the whole price of valuation, being bound by contract to keep them for three years.Officers have the option of choosing between these two systems, as far as the first horse is concerned. But the second horse can only be acquired after the manner provided under letter b. When several Officers desire the same horse, it is put up to auction as provided for in article 18, even if the method under letter "a" or that under letter "b" be in question.
25. The Chief of Service can free cavalry Officers of the obligation of acquiring a horse under conditions fixed in article 24 if they present request with satisfactory reason attached. These Officers must supply in writing to their immediate superiors every year before the 1st March, proof that they themselves own permanently at least one good horse fit for service and well trained. These documents are addressed to the Chief of the Cavalry Service through the usual channel.

(c) Sale of Horses to Recruits

26. Recruits should decide at the time of recruiting if they will buy a horse from the Confederation or if they will furnish one themselves. They should present an attestation from the authorities of their commune, certificate of solvency (according to the annexed schedule), certifying that they are in a position to keep a cavalry horse in a proper manner.
27. The Farriers (shoeing-smiths), saddlers and armourers are also authorized to purchase a horse from the Confederation, if they present the attestation provided for in article 26.
28. Recruits only enter into possession of their horses after they have been used at the school of recruits during three weeks.
29. Exchanging horses in recruiting schools must be avoided as much as possible. Nevertheless it may be authorized by the Commandant of the school within fourteen days after purchase, if the purchasers express a wish to do so, or if the necessity of these exchanges is demonstrated.

This allowed once, the Commandant of the school would only have the right to order exchanges among the horses of the recruiting school if there is an evident unsuitability between the rider and the horse.

30. When the exchange is asked for by the purchaser, any sums paid above the auction price are retained. In the case of the exchange of the horse of a recruit for a horse of the depot for personal convenience, the higher price of the horse given back is, when the need arises, diminished by the estimated value of the new horse.
31. The horses of the cavalrymen on leave before the end of the recruiting school are taken back on payment of half the estimated value, and in some cases of the total higher bid. Nevertheless, if the rider has done *at least* 60 days of service, the Commandant of the school is authorized to trust him with the horse if he expresses the wish to have it. If the man cannot replace during the year the service he has missed, he receives no instalment of the redemption price for his horse that year.

(d) Delivery of Horses to Soldiers Needing Remounts

32. Officers, cavalrymen and third-party-holders whose horses have been discharged or taken back, or have died, are remounted by the remount depot.
33. The horses indicated below are used for this purpose, i.e.:
 - a—Old horses at the depot or bought for remounts.
 - b—Horses which at the first valuation were classed as fit for service for a shorter time than the normal duration.
 - c—The remount horses broken in for either riding or driving if in default of a sufficiency of other horses.
34. Officers, non-commissioned officers and men are detailed separately by categories, for the remount work.

35. The soldiers detailed for this work are only freed from the obligation of taking a horse when the number of horses is less than that of the riders. If they refuse without a sufficient reason to take a horse, the Chief of Cavalry can force them to refund to the Confederation the cost of the keep of the horse which is refused, until the next delivery of horses, unless they prefer furnishing within three weeks, a horse fit for the service.

(c) **Delivery of Horses to Third-Party-Holders**

36. The Confederation has a right of treating with third parties for the supply of horses for the service.
The rules pertaining to cavalry horses are applicable to the regulation dealings between the Confederation and third-parties.
37. People wishing to become third-party-holders of horses should inform the Chief of Cavalry of their intention.
38. These third-party-holders are expected to bring the horses they are holding to the meeting ground every time the cavalymen are called out for service, or the units to which they belong are called out to service; they must come and take them back at the place where they are disbanded.

IV.—DEALINGS BETWEEN THE CONFEDERATION AND THE PURCHASERS

(a) **Payments, Reimbursements, Redemption**

39. Officers, cavalymen, recruits and third-party-holders of horses who buy a cavalry horse from the Confederation, pay at the time half the estimate price, and in some cases a higher bid.
40. In paying the higher bid the purchaser renounces his rights to a refund. Nevertheless, the military administration orders of its own accord the refund of the higher bid for horses taken back during the recruiting school from whatever motive, and for those who have to be taken back or destroyed, or which become unfit for service in the 30 days that follow the time that the riders have them at home, it being always understood that diseases or faults of training which have made it necessary to take back, destroy or discharge the horses must have existed already at the time of delivery, or have shown themselves during service.
41. The half of the estimated price paid by the purchaser, is redeemed by annual repayments of a tenth. Men who change horses in the course of the year receive a repayment for the horse which they hold on the 31st December, so long as the account relating to the former horse has been settled without any notice being taken of the redeeming figure of the last year. That is to say, when the rider received his due for the former horse.
42. For the horses supplied by the riders, half the valuation price is paid on the day the horses are delivered, or at the latest a fortnight

after; the purchasers find themselves thus with the same rights and the same obligations as those who have bought a horse from the Confederation.

(b) **Military Service of Horses**

43. The man keeps his horse as long as he serves in the Elite.
44. The horse must be presented at each service to which the man is called.

Non-commissioned Officers and Armourers present themselves unmounted to the schools of quartermasters and of armourers. The horses of men prevented from carrying out a marching order can be acquired for service without the riders having any right to compensation. The service missed must also be made good by a service with the horse.

45. Sergeant-majors, quartermasters and sergeants must, with their horses, take nine practice ("Repetition") courses from and including the year of the recruiting school; corporals and cavalymen eight only. Their first horses are given up to the corporals and cavalymen only after ten years of service, and they are allowed to take back their substitute horses after the same period. Until then, the horses are liable to be called out even, if need be, to active service.
46. The horses of third-party-holders must perform service for ten years, unless the contract stipulates a shorter duration of service.

(c) **Care and Use of the Horse**

47. Outside military service, the horses are fed and cared for at the expense of the purchasers, and can be employed for such work as will not deteriorate their military qualities. They must be kept in a spacious, well-aired and well-lighted stable. One must not put them with big cattle, which often brings on shortness of breath, and obliges one to strike them off the roll permanently. Riders must ride their horse assiduously out of service, so as to keep his qualities as a saddle horse. It is expressly forbidden to use the cavalry horses for breeding purposes, to harness them to post-wagons, to use them as cab horses, or for heavy carts, or to hire them for military service, or to private people. The Swiss military department can punish any infraction of this rule with a maximum fine of \$20, or a punishment, or even take back their horse.
48. When circumstances demand it, the purchaser can be authorized, out of the service, to change the quarters of his horse, without being obliged to make a contract with a third-party. The requests must simply be addressed to the Chief of the Cavalry, through the commandant of the unit; with it is given an attestation from the local (communal) authorities, warranting that the horse will be well-treated, and properly employed at his new home.

(d) Responsibility of the Buyer

49. Cavalry horses are the property of the Confederation, and cannot be transferred to another by the rider. - Moreover, they can neither be seized nor sequestrated, and it is forbidden to transfer the right of receiving the instalments in repayment.
50. The Confederation reimburses to the purchaser the share not yet paid back of the half of the valuation price of the horses which die or become unfit for service through defects or diseases existing when the horse was handed over, or contracted during military service.
51. The owners lose all their rights to the abatements remaining for horses which die, or have to be destroyed out of the service without the holder being at fault and without the cause of the horse's death being attributable to military service or to the horse's constitution. They receive, nevertheless, the value of the carcass. When horses become unfit for military service, without any fault on the part of the purchaser, and without this circumstance being attributable to military service or to a defect of constitution, then there will be refunded to the purchaser only the half of the part not yet paid back of the half of the valuation price.
52. Horses becoming unfit for service during military service or outside of the service, are taken back to be sold at public auction or to be destroyed. The proceeds fall to the Confederation, so does the produce of the horses' carcasses which have died in service.
53. The Chief Veterinary proposes to the Chief of the Service, after having heard from the Commandant of the "depot," to strike off or to destroy horses becoming unfit for service. The Chief Veterinary also proposes to the Chief of Service, according to the horses' service book, to settle accounts either in conformity with article 50, or in conformity with article 51, 1st or 2nd paragraph.
54. In the case of horses still fit for service being taken back for any other reason whatever, there will be refunded to the purchasers the instalments not yet paid back, subject to a certain deduction for striking faults or blemishes contracted outside the service.
55. The purchasers who do not take proper care of their horses, or who have become unable to keep one, are transferred into another branch of the service or relieved from personal service. They must give back their horse.
56. The buyer is responsible for the loss of his horse or of any damage happening to his horse through his fault outside the military service. This responsibility extends to the total value of the horse.
57. When the circumstances of the death of a horse point to the culpability of the buyer or to a third-party, the veterinary who makes the post-mortem has an inquest on the spot. The report of the post-mortem is sent to the Chief Veterinary who sends to the Chief of the Cavalry Service a report and propositions on the manner of settling accounts.

58. Worn-out horses, those that are weakened, badly fed or cared for, are put under observation and taken care of at the remount depot; a careful report being made out on entering. The Commandant of the riding depot and the chief veterinary will declare from the documents in their hands and from the report of inspection from the Commandant of the unit, and from the result of observation and treatment, if the unfitness or the bad condition of the horse comes from grave negligence, overwork or bad treatment. If necessary the Chief of the Service will order a new enquiry, and then will pronounce on the case.
59. The damages will be assessed according to the whole of the redemption money.

(e) **Transfer of Horses to the Buyers as Their Own Property**

60. The man who has accomplished his ten years of service with the same horse becomes the possessor of it. When the price of the horse is already paid up while the man has still some arrears of service, the cavalryman does not become the possessor of the horse until he and the horse have made up the arrears of service. Officers' horses bought in virtue of article 24a become the property of the officer after having served ten years with the same officer. The third-parties become possessors of their first horses at the end of ten years if the horses have been sent every year to service.

V.—REVISION OF HORSES

61. Cavalry horses are examined on entering the service and on leaving it, in the presence of the commandant of the unit, by the veterinary of the division, or by a veterinary designated by the Chief Veterinary. The result of the inspection is recorded in the register of horses, in the horse's book of service, and in a veterinary report which is sent to the Chief Veterinary.
62. Horses sick or unfit for service on entering or on leaving service, are transferred, according to the decision of the veterinary who has to make the inspection, into a veterinary hospital, where they receive proper care to refit them for service. The dispositions of article 70 are applicable by analogy to horses sent to the hospital on entering service. The buyers have no right whatever to an indemnity for not being able to use their horse while the horse is being treated either at the hospital or at home. Horses which, on leaving the service, are suffering from slight affections: (slight scratches, bruises and wounds) can be trusted to the rider, or to the third-party to be cared for at home.
63. Horses of corporal, lance-corporal and soldiers, who, having finished eight practice courses will pass into the landwehr at the end of the following year, must be sent, with a special note, to the cavalry remount depot, even if their fitness for service seems doubtful. If it is decided that the horses are unfit for service the men will be supplied

with fresh mounts, provided that the class which is not called out for practice, must be provided, in the event of active service, with horses fit for the field.

VI.—SICK HORSES AND HORSES UNDER OBSERVATION

64. Any buyer whose horse falls ill out of service must have him cared for at his own expense; he will ask the acting veterinary to inform the chief veterinary about it. The buyer is also obliged to give notice to the commander of his unit of the illness of his horse.
65. The chief veterinary is informed by telegram of any case of death of a cavalry horse outside service. The post-mortem cannot begin before his instructions are received.
66. Cavalry horses must not be destroyed without the authority of the chief veterinary. The only exception to this rule is in case of a fracture or incurable wound, when the diagnosis has been duly established by two experts (of which one at least is a military veterinary). Nevertheless, in such cases, the chief veterinary must be informed of the destruction and his decision awaited to begin the post-mortem.
67. The Confederation pays the fees of the veterinary and all the medicines for all sick horses, which, on leaving service, have slight affections and are cared for at home. The same rule applies in case of internal illness declaring itself within five days after the service, and of which the chief veterinary has had notice in the same lapse of time by the attendant veterinary. No compensation is paid for the food and care given to horses treated at the purchaser's.
68. When the chief veterinary thinks it best to have the sick horses, which are at home, treated at the remount depot, he sends a proposition of transfer to the chief of service. Once the treatment is finished at the depot, it is time to decide if the horse is to be handed over again to the buyer or taken back by the Confederation.
69. The Confederation bears the expense of treating at the remount hospital those horses which have fallen ill in service or out of service.
70. Should observation of the horse show that the demand for admission to the hospital was not well founded, or had been given on false pretences, or else if the thinness and the bad state of the horse were the fault of the buyer, the expenses of the Confederation must be repaid back to it at the rate of 40 cents a day. The man must be answer for all damages. (See article 58.)

VII.—HORSES TAKEN BACK TO BE TRAINED

71. Horses which under the saddle or in harness do not show the qualities that one has a right to expect from them, are taken back to be trained at the remount depot. The requests for admission should be addressed by the buyers to the commandant of the unit for the chief of the service.

72. According to the result of the examination and of the training, the horses will be taken back or else returned to the cavalrymen. The remount depot addresses on this subject a report and propositions to the chief of the cavalry service, making the necessary entries in the register.
73. The Confederation bears the expense of taking horses back to be trained. All the same the buyers receive no compensation for being unable to use their horses, nor for care and feeding, nor for expenses of treatment, nor, if the case should arise, for deterioration of harness, carriages, etc. Nevertheless, if the horse has been given to him without recognized faults of training or of temper, the man must repay the expense at the rate of 40 cents a day. Moreover, Article 70 is applicable by analogy.
74. Horses taken back to be trained and horses put under observation which have been taken back, may, if they are still fit for service, be given to riders who are qualified to use them.

VIII.—HORSES TAKEN BACK

75. The following must be given back to the Confederation:
- 1—The horses of officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers excluded from personal service, or transferred to another corps.
 - 2—The horses of men exempted from personal service in virtue of Article 13 of the military organization.
 - 3—The horses of third-party holders, in case of the death of the third party or of the rider to whom the horse has been given.
 - 4—The horse of cavalry officers recently commissioned.
 - 5—Horses of men on leave.
 - 6—Horses of men deceased.
 - 7—Horses of officers who leave the cavalry service prematurely, or those who pass into the landwehr.
 - 8—The substitute horses of the men who are passing into the landwehr.
- The following exceptions may be authorized:
76. Cavalry officers recently commissioned may, if they apply for it, keep on the same terms the horses which they had when they were soldiers, as Confederation horses, or buy them, conformably to Article 24b.
77. Men on leave may be authorized to keep their horses, that is to say to leave them where they are, if they undertake to come back for any service their unit may be called to, or if the leave does not last more than a year.

It is through the cantonal military authorities that this permission is applied for to the chief of the cavalry service, and it is the latter who decrees after having heard the commandant of the unit. It is as a rule forbidden to export horses.

78. In the case of horses which have no more than one to five years of service to finish, the relations of a deceased soldier, cavalrymen definitely discharged on account of health, and men passing into the landwehr with substitute horses, will be allowed to leave the above mentioned animals to a third-party-holder on the same terms as formerly, until the full ten years of service shall be accomplished. In such cases the mark on the shoulder, indicating the first year of service, serves as a basis for the calculation of services already accomplished. These third-party horses are given to the units according to need, as horses for trumpeters, workmen, hospital orderlies, or as pack-horses.
79. Cavalry officers who have been given horses on the conditions indicated in Article 24a. and who, after a minimum of five years' service, wish to buy these horses on the terms indicated in Article 24b. must present them at the cavalry remount depot. The depreciation in value caused by work outside the service will be assessed there by the chief veterinary or according to his instructions given in view of the settling of accounts as set forth in Article 54; they are revalued for sale with the approval of the commanders of the remount depot according to Article 12. The definite account is established afterwards. Cavalry officers who have left the cavalry service prematurely, or those who pass into the landwehr can buy in the same manner the horses which they have acquired in virtue of Article 24a, when they only have from one to five years of service to accomplish. If these horses only have a service under three years to accomplish, the conditions stipulated in Article 24 can be modified in consequence.
80. The Confederation may hand over as their own to the men of the landwehr (officers included) and to the third-party holders the substitute horses which have finished their time of service, on condition that they renounce their right to repayments not yet fallen due, and also pay a sum equal to these repayments. If the horse has no longer this value, the expert who has to calculate the depreciation is authorized to reduce the price in consequence. For sales of this nature, every horse is considered to have finished his time of service at the end of ten years commencing from the year of recruitment.
81. Transfer and sales of horses foreseen in Articles 78, 79, and 80 presuppose the good care of the horses by the purchasers and the fitness for service of the horses mentioned in Articles 78 and 79. When these conditions have not been fulfilled the horses are taken back.
82. Articles 51 and 59 apply to the settlement of accounts concerning horses taken back.

IX.—SUPERVISION OF HORSES

83. Commandants of the units are required to see that the horses of their units (including the officers' horses) are constantly fit for the field. Every year they inspect the horses of the recruits recently incorporated in the service and also the horses of the last class which is

no longer called to practice courses. Besides this, they will inspect all horses who appear to have been insufficiently cared for or are in bad condition, and lastly they will take their turn in inspecting a large number of horses of the oldest classes. They need not inspect the horses of men let off from the ninth practice course, if those horses have been inspected the year before, and if they have shown themselves perfectly fit for service during the last repetition course.

84. The commandants of the units propose the taking back of all horses whose fitness for service seems to them doubtful for the future, either in the practice courses or during the inspections. Temporary affections are not to be taken into account.
85. A report is given (according to formula) upon the inspection of horses; the reports are given as follows:
- a.—Reports on horses of independent cavalry units by the commandant of the unit to the chief of the service.
 - b.—Reports on the horses of the embodied cavalry units by the usual way to the commandant of the regiments; the commandants of the regiments send a report to the brigade commandants, for the chief of the cavalry service. The officers who have made the inspections are responsible for the correctness of their reports.

X.—REGISTERS

86. Registers of the cavalry horses of the Confederation include the following:
- a.—The registered list of the cavalry remount depot; this list contains the full report up to the time the horses leave the recruiting school, i. e., until their delivery to the officers or to the enlisted men. It gives details upon the destination of the horses, buyers, taking back, fresh delivery, striking off the roll, destruction, on the valuation price, and, should the case arise, the higher bid, or the product of the sale on the repayment money.
 - b.—The cavalry service register; this book is a duplicate of the previous one, as to details of sale, of destination and of repayment money.
 - c.—The register of the corps of the commander of the unit; this book contains notes from the previous one, and also condition of horses each time they enter the service and each time they leave the service. In the practice courses, the latter information is put down at once. On this occasion there will be written down in the register of horses, reference being made to the man's service booklet, the results of the re-examinations which have taken place, in the interval, in the recruiting schools, at the special courses, and at the courses for late arrivals. The horse of the commander of a cavalry brigade is inscribed in the register of horses of the first unit of the brigade, and that of a commander of a cavalry regiment in the register of the first unit of the regi-

ment. Adjutants' horses continue to figure in the registers of the horses of the unit in which they are incorporated. Changes should be communicated each quarter to the commanders of units. Reports are checked by the cavalry remounts depots and reach the commanders of the units through the hands of the chief of cavalry.

87. The remount depot has, moreover, a register of the horses sold with obligation to keep them three years, and registers in due form the notes on the training, both saddle and harness, the special qualities of the horses, etc.
88. The military cantonal authorities hold the register of the third-party holders of their canton. Changes have to be communicated to them through the cavalry chief. The cantonal military authorities call together third-party holders who must bring a horse to the service, or come to take back a horse. The cantonal military authorities are obliged to inform without delay the cavalry chief about leave, departures, or any decrease in the numbers of riders and third-party holders, so that the horses can be taken back. They specially give notice to the cavalry chief when men come back from leave or when men temporarily exempted from service come back to the colors, so that these men may be remounted.

XI.—OBLIGATORY NOTICES

89. The purchaser must himself give notice of the following:
- 1—Directly to the chief veterinary:
 - a.—Sickness of his horse (a veterinary certificate must be enclosed). Articles 64 and 67).
 - b.—The death of his horse. (Articles 65 and 66).
 - 2—To the commander of his unit:
 - c.—Any change of address.
 - d.—Requests in connection with the removal of his horse. (Article 48).
 - e.—When his horse has not done sufficient service under the saddle or in harness. (Article 71).
 - f.—Sickness of his horse. (Article 64).
 - g.—The putting of his horse under observation or in training. (Articles 68 and 71).
 - h.—When the Confederation takes back his horse. (Articles 68 and 72).
 - i.—When the horse is returned to the rider after it has been under observation, or in training. (Articles 68 and 72).
 - k.—When his horse is taken back by the Confederation for other reasons. (Article 75).
 - l.—His remount. (Article 32).

3—To the cantonal military authorities:

m.—The request to be left in possession of his horse when he leaves the country for a short time. (Article 77).

The commander of the unit transmits to the chief of cavalry the communications and requests mentioned in No. 2, letters c, d, and e; the cantonal military authorities do the same for the requests which reach them.

XII.—ACCOUNTS

90. The sums paid at the time of the delivery of horses as the valuation price of the horse, and, as the case may be, for the higher bid, are paid into the State counting house; notice of it is given to the central commissariat of war. At the same time there should be sent to the cavalry service the inventory of the auction sale, the inventory of valuation, and a list of the number of the horses sold. The amount of the higher bids must figure apart, independently of the valuation price. In recruiting schools, accounts are only definitely settled at the end of the service. It is also only at that time that the inventories of auctions and valuation and the list of the numbers are sent to the chief of the cavalry service.

91. The sums repayable by the cavalymen out of service to the military administration must be paid into the federal counting house in Berne, notice thereof is given to the cavalry service. The cavalry remounting depot is responsible for payments to the cavalymen.

The redemption money not paid in for dead horses is put down to the man's account when he receives a new mount.

92. The shares of redemption money for the cavalry horses of the Confederation, wiped out at the end of the year, are paid to those having a right to it in the first quarter of the following year, through the hand of the central commissariat of war and of the cantonal military authorities. The necessary documents are drawn up and handed over by the commander of the unit according to the instructions of the cavalry chief. These lists are verified by the cavalry remount depot then entered in the books; those having rights are classed according to cantons. These documents are checked a second time by the cavalry service, which send them, after copying them, to the central commissariat of war accompanied by a memorandum countersigned by him.

XIII.—ROAD EXPENSES

93. For the inspection of horses out of service, officers receive a daily allowance of \$3.20, plus a road allowance of 2 cents for each kilometre covered. The pay sheets are sent to the chief of service, who signs and passes them.

94. The regulation road allowance, without pay, is given to the following:
- a.—To men incorporated, and to third-party holders, conveyed to take a new mount, also to men coming to fetch horses supplied by them, and which have been trained.
 - b.—To the officers who bring horses to buy back according to Article 79, to the men who bring horses of cavalrymen deceased or transferred into the landwehr, and for the horses of third-party holders. On the other hand no return allowance is paid to the men who have brought horses, neither any road allowance to riders and to third-party holders who, being called to take a remount have taken no horse though there were plenty to choose from.
95. No road allowance is paid to the rider who brings his own horse to the depot inspection.
96. The third-party holders who bring their horses to military service or who come to take them back, are allowed to take advantage of the regulation tax on production of the horses' service book and of the marching orders. In the case of the call to service of entire units of troops (squadrons, guide, and machine-gun companies), it is sufficient to present the horse's service booklet and the contract of the third-party holder. The third-party-holders receive as road allowance regulation kilometric allowance fixed by the administration for military men and service horses travelling alone without deduction of the first twenty kilometres, if it is a question of horses brought to service, or taken back at the end of service, they have to give an allowance to the person who brings home the horse, and for the journey as far as the disbanding place, besides this they receive a daily allowance of 60 cents. When the third-party-holders have their horses taken to the instruction courses, or send to fetch them by their own riders or others, the same daily allowances are paid to these riders plus the road allowance for the horse; on the other hand the man receives no road allowance.
97. The regulation road allowances without pay are given for taking to or fetching from the depot, those horses put under observation or taken back from training; an exception is made in the following cases:
- a.—When the buyer must take back as fit for service a horse which has had to be put under observation, without the cause being attributed to service.
 - b.—When the buyer has to take as "reformed" a horse which had been sent back to train, and if he has received it, after inspection at the depot, free from vice or defective training.
 - c.—When a horse has been taken back for reasons of personal convenience, or through the fault of the buyer, or when the request is made without any real reason, or finally, when the possessor has supplied incorrect information. (See again Articles 58, 70 and 73).

XIV.—SPECIAL ORDERS

98. Purchasers of cavalry horses are authorized to insure their horses in a "horse insurance" company. Nevertheless, the insurance figure will be fixed in such a manner that the amount of the allowance does not exceed half the valuation price, plus, as the case may be, the amount of the higher bid. In case the horse dies or is destroyed, or struck off the roll, the insurance companies have only to pay the amount of his insurance to the man insured, if he has not yet received that sum by redemption money, through the military administration. Horses can be insured in the same way against fire. Multiple insurances are forbidden, when their object is to obtain a sum superior to the real loss.
99. Every notice or claim must be accompanied by the horse's service booklet; the letter must give the number and the year of the horse's training.
100. The cavalry remount depot sends to riders directly, also to third-party-holders, orders to bring and to fetch back horses under observation or those taken back to train, and orders for taking to remount depot.
101. Appeals may be made to the Swiss military department against the decisions of the cavalry chief, and to the Federal Council against the decisions of the department. The Federal Council gives the final decision.

XV.—FINAL ORDERS

102. The present order will come into force on the 1st January, 1909. The order on cavalry horses, of April 19th, 1898, and all the regulations and orders in contradiction with the present order are cancelled, in the name of the Federal Council.

Berne, December 21st., 1908.

The President of the Confederation, Brenner.

The Chancellor of the Confederation, Ringier.

Sample of Published Notices in Swiss Papers Concerning Cavalry Horses

"By order of the Chief of the Cavalry Service, new remount purchases will be made at the following places: Berne, January 12th, 9 o'clock a.m., remount depot, etc., etc. For the purchase of these horses the following rules are to be observed:

1. "The horses must be healthy and of good temper, have the qualities of a saddle horse, straight legs, and a correct gait.
2. "Only horses of from 3 1-2 to 7 years old and of the height of 154 to 162 centimeters under the bracket will be purchased.
3. "The purchaser will pay immediately and take his horse away at once.

4. "If within the first twenty days after purchase the horse shows blemishes and defects mentioned in Article 71 of the Federal rules of administration, and in the order concerning cavalry horses, the seller must take back the horse at the remount depot at Berne, and pay back the price of the sale.
5. "The horses put on the waiting list can be presented without other formality. On the other hand in the case of horses which are already in the army, a request must be addressed beforehand to the general management of depots in Berne. In this request must be stated the size of the horse's shoes, the date when the horse joined the army; the occupation and address of the seller."

A TRIBUTE FROM LORD SALISBURY

The late Lord Salisbury said, "It is for you to urge upon all the necessity of placing yourselves in the position of an armed nation—a nation such as the Swiss, whose strength lies not in its military organization, but in the spirit of those who love their country, and are prepared to die for it. In a democratic nation every citizen must be a soldier and every soldier a citizen."

SWISS WAR MOBILIZATION IN AUGUST, 1914.

By Colonel Wm. Hamilton Merritt, Hon. Pres. Canadian Military Institute, Pres. Canadian Defence League.

The wonderful celerity and thoroughness of the Swiss in manning their frontier and converting an industrious and peaceful community into an armed and organized people in a few days may, I hope, be thought by the members an ample justification for the reproduction of two letters on the subject communicated by myself to and published by the *"Mail and Empire"* of Toronto in their issues of 26th Sept., 1914, and 5th June, 1915. I have added, for general information, another letter "Our Defence Forces" to the same paper, written just before the war, May, 1914, which explains some basic reasons for the harmony and efficiency of the Swiss Military System, a contribution on "Militarism" which throws some further light upon the same subject, and finally a letter dealing with the position of our Militia Act at the present time in its bearing on the power to call out the manhood of Canada for training and service.

Interlaken, Switzerland, Aug. 7th, 1914.—The mobilization of Switzerland's army is complete and half a million soldiers are in their allotted places for the defence of their beloved country should it be necessary.

Just a week ago today the Government, appreciating the seriousness of the outlook, though war had not yet been declared between any of the great powers, issued a proclamation of "Standing Picket" (Picket Stellung) of the Swiss army.

This notice embodies articles 199, 200, 213 and 214 of the Swiss Military Law, and under them every soldier is to be ready for further orders and cannot leave the country without special permission; all exportation of horses, mules, and vehicles is forbidden, and no one can dispose of those in his possession; and the communes immediately proceed to revise their horse and wagon lists.

The necessary units of the Landstrum (second reserve, 40 to 48 years of age) were ordered for the service of observation of the frontier and to guard the ways of communication.

On the evening of the 31st July a large placard was posted up in the commune (the municipal division of a canton) where I happened to be, as follows:

"Standing Picket in the whole Swiss army. Elite, Landwehr, and Landstrum. Moreover, those who have to look after personal mobilization, territorial, lines of communication and railway. All soldiers must be ready to go at once to their headquarters as soon as an order comes. Interlaken, 31st July, 1914. Federal Military Department and Commune of Interlaken."

This order was also read at different places throughout the commune by an official, preceded with two or three drummers to call attention.

Early next morning, August 1st, the roads leading to the field behind the schoolhouse were alive with led horses and a certain number of vehicles. At 7 o'clock the checking over of a clearly written list began. The list of owners' names was spread on a table and checked by a commune official, while the animals were inspected by another official, who suggested a note as to their suitability for service and to which branch they might be posted.

Whenever a man buys a horse in Switzerland he must report the same to his commune, as he is obliged to produce it for service in time of war, and also bring it twice a year for inspection as well as on an occasion such as above.

READY FOR DUTY

Later on in the morning Lanstrum, for sentry observation on the frontier, were to be seen coming in from their homes in the mountain hamlets. Here an armed man with full kit and two days' food was to be seen walking along the sidewalk holding his little boy by the hand, while his wife and a little girl followed. Again the beat of a drum is heard, and a little group of a dozen soldiers march behind it toward the station, all in full marching order, with rifle slung over the shoulder. They are followed by boys pushing four baby carriages containing some knapsacks, etc., and a woman walking alongside. But woe betide the enemy that comes within effective range of these veterans of the Swiss army for with seasoned nerve and practised eye, from the time they commenced their recruit training more than 20 years ago, they can tell where every shot from their trusted rifle should go!

The same day again another big poster, and another beating of drums and official proclamation, "War Mobilization, 3rd August 1st mobilization. All divisions, fortress garrisons, all army troops of the Elite and Landwehr; all the special troops of the Lanstrum are called out. Every commune must furnish horses and wagons at the place of inspection, in accordance with the order concerning furnishing of horses.

"Swiss Military Department, de Coppet".

Attached to this large poster a small one was affixed later: "The exact time and place for the mobilization will be put up at the Town Hall of Interlaken. "The Commune Interlaken."

Next morning, Aug. 2nd, at the Town Hall there were two large printed sheets setting forth in one the mobilization place, day of mobilization (1st, 2nd or 3rd, viz., Monday, Aug. 3rd; Tuesday, Aug. 4; and Wed., Aug. 5th) for troops of each division (1st to 6th) of the Elite. The other sheet had the same information for all the Landwehr and the special troops of the Lanstrum.

The other men of the Lanstrum, notably those of the complementary services (12 classes; pioneers, cyclists and motorists, guides and porters,

electricians, signalers, artisans, medical-personel, bakers, butchers, storemen, wagoners and clerks) were not called out.

Lastly (as regards mobilization notices) early on Monday morning, August 3rd, a large poster affixed outside the post-office showed every troop train from every place for the three mobilization days, the last day being colored red.

MEN

At 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, 4th August, I was present at Thun at the mobilization of an infantry brigade. Before that hour by every train and from all directions armed men in full marching order were to be seen streaming toward the place of assembly. Rallying places for the brigade staff, for the regimental staff and for each battalion were clearly marked. Within five minutes from the hour set—9 a.m.—the captain of each company was having his roll called, to which 214 officers, N.C.O.'s and men answered. A Swiss infantry regiment numbers 2,812, with 54 saddle horses, and an infantry brigade 5,622, with 110 saddle horses.

HORSES

Not far from the mobilizing infantry the horses from the communes were being inspected and classified. There was a stretched rope for each separate commune, with its name written on a board at the end near the road. About a dozen rows stretched one after the other and some distance below the last was found one for rejected horses.

The commune list, with the observations made at the commune inspection, is placed before a valuing commission who accept or reject the horse and place a value upon it in case it is killed. The maximum value put on a saddle horse is \$360 and on a team horse \$240. A dollar a day is paid the owner. Accepted horses then are led to another commission which classifies them, "officers," "battery," "train," etc., and they are led to lines marked accordingly.

This inspection of commune horses lasted from Tuesday to Friday, 4 days, but long before it was through most of the regiments were at their posts on or near the frontier, and it is quite possible that Switzerland was about the first country to finish mobilization.

While on the matter of horses it might be added that this commune horse mobilization has nothing to do with the cavalry horses, other than to provide spare horses at depots for the same, every cavalry man having his own horse at his home and riding it to mobilization. Besides these cavalry horses and some 850 for officers at the Horse Regie, there are some 120,000 now taken over from owners for artillery, transport, etc., and to form a reserve, and these reserves horses are looked after by reserve (Landwehr) cavalry. For example, this place is a depot, and some 250 reserve horses are billeted about and looked after by a squadron of Landwehr dragoons who are only a reserve without horses, the elite (or active) cavalry alone being horsed in the Swiss system.

A more matter of fact proceeding than this Swiss mobilization it would be difficult to conceive, showing the great value of their mode of training, which is made to resemble active service in the field as closely as possible. No sign of excitement or confusion was anywhere evident and the conversion of a people into an army has taken place in three days; and on a great emergency could have been done in about half the time. Every town, village and hamlet is like a "deserted village", almost manless and horseless, there is a deadly quiet everywhere.

It should be added further that this army of about 500,000 strong, from a population one-half of that of Canada, is a force that will not be held lightly by even the great powers, for they know it is well trained, armed, equipped and organized, composed of perhaps the best rifle shots in the world and that behind all that lies a spirit of the highest type of patriotism, and a determination to be wiped out rather than that any invader, be he who he may, should get a foot-hold on the soil which is rich with the blood their ancestors shed in defence of Swiss nationality.

BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM

Vevey, Switzerland, 10th May, 1915.

Sir,—Since my letter of the 7th of August on the mobilization of the Swiss army (August 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7), which appeared in your issue of September 26th, our people in Canada have without doubt learned much, and thought more than they ever did before, of the vital importance to the country of an effective system of defence. By effective, I mean one that will not only furnish a force sufficiently large for national safety (in the light of modern requirements) in the shortest possible space of time, properly armed, equipped, organized, and trained, under competent leaders; but which provides, moreover, ample reserves of horses, supplies, arms and munitions; with adequate facilities for manufacturing the last two. Also, the cost of which shall not be excessive, and well within the means of the people.

Assuming this frame of mind to exist at last, it is possible that the amplification of the general statements in my previous letter may interest an increasing number of my fellow-countrymen.

First, I might recall the fact that in the Swiss army the "elite" is composed of young men who, having been accepted, serve between the ages of 20 and 32 years, "the Landwehr" serve between 32 and 39, and the "Landstrum" serve from 40 to 48 years of age. The men of the Elite pass into the Landwehr and the latter into the Landstrum, therefore all are trained men, and in war time they would pass in the reverse order to fill up deficiencies. There are, moreover, a large number of men who are not quite up to the physical standard in some respect, but are considered best adapted for a special class of service, termed "complementary ser-

vices". Men are recruited at 18 years of age. They are classed in one of three categories: men fit to serve, men fit for the "complementary services", and men unfit to serve. The latter two classes pay the military tax. The complementary services cover, according to the needs of the army, and during active service, pioneer, medical, commissariat, intelligence, and transport work. They receive no instruction, their civil vocations giving them the requisite knowledge for their army work.

As an example of available numbers of above mentioned military classes in Switzerland (with a population of some 3,800,000) on the first of January 1912, there were: Elite, 143,851; Landwehr, 69,575; Landstrum, (about) 70,000; complimentary services, 207,004. Total, 490,430.

It will now be better understood when I recall that the first step taken in Switzerland was (on the 31st July) to put the whole army on "standing picket", and to call out necessary units of the Landstrum for the service of frontier observation and guarding ways of communication (railways, etc.). Numbers are very naturally not given out, but from the battalions called out for this purpose, as given in the local press for one Canton, it may be assumed that at least some 51,300 Landstrum were under arms. In like manner the actual figures of the troops which mobilized on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of August, are not yet obtainable, except by calculating them from the war mobilization posters, which were affixed to the official notice boards of every Commune. These were two sheets, one containing the troops in detail of the 6 divisions (four of them with mountain troops) the garrisons of the two fortifications, and the army troops of the Elite. The other sheet contained the army troops of the Landwehr, the location of the various depots, and the special troops of the Landstrum.

A Swiss Division (without mountain troops) consists of Divisional Staff, three brigades of Infantry, one Cyclist Co., one "Groupe" (three companies) of infantry machine guns: one "groupe" (two squadrons) of "Guides" (Cavalry); one brigade of artillery (48 field guns and eight howitzers); one divisional (ammunition) Park (of two ammunition groupements and one howitzer ammunition company); one battalion of sappers: one bridging train; one telegraph company; one divisional medical "groupe" (of six companies); one supply "groupe" (of two companies).

The standard total strength of a Swiss Division is therefore 22,621, with 1,211 riding horses; 3,768 draught horses; 1,123 vehicles; 8 motor cars, and 24 motor tractors. A Division with mountain troops has about 1,000 more men, and over 1,000 pack animals.

The following may be considered as fairly well representing the army which took the field in August:—

		Guns	Officers and Men	Horses and Mules	Vehicles	Autos	Motor Tractors
	Army Staff.....		189	132	15	12	
	1st Division (with mtn. troops).....	64	23,097	6,195	1,122	9	24
	2nd " (without mtn. troops).....	56	23,062	4,950	1,103	9	24
	3rd " (with mtn. troops).....	61	23,386	6,020	1,094	9	24
Elite	4th " (without mtn. troops).....	56	21,836	4,917	1,095	9	24
	5th " (with mtn. troops).....	64	25,085	6,174	1,106	9	24
	6th " (with mtn. troops).....	64	24,231	6,289	1,094	9	24
Elite and Landwehr	Fortress Troops (about).....	?	30,000	5,000	1,100	9	24
	Army Troops—Elite.....	48	16,576	7,424	806	12	12
	Army Troops—Landwehr.....		74,148	8,742	2,782	6	
Landstrum	Landstrum Infantry (at least).....		51,300				
	Landstrum Special Troops.....		18,700				
	Under Arms—Total.....	416	331,610	5,843 Reserve	11,317	93	180
Compt. Services	Complementary Services (Uncalled).....		207,000	64,158	?	?	?
	Total Army Available.....		538,610	120,001	?	?	?

The above guns consist of 288 Field Guns, 48 howitzers, 32 mountain guns, and 48 heavy guns. Also a minimum of 156 Infantry and 64 Cavalry Machine Guns, a total of 220, were included in the mobilization.

It might be stated that the above mentioned total under arms were in the field at the end of the first three days, and the last two days completed the examination of reserve horses and the mobilization of veterinary hospital staff.

The Swiss law provides that if more than 2,000 troops are called out, for over three weeks, Parliament must be assembled; also that, in case of war, that body chooses a General to command the army, there being otherwise no higher rank than colonel. On August 3rd, a General was thus selected, and he took over command of the army and control of the railways. Most of the Landstrum was soon released, and, after important defence work and posts of observation had been constructed all along the frontiers, other portions of the army were also allowed to go to their homes, ready to be called again at a moment's notice. Since the end of October some of the divisions and other troops have been relieved from time to time, then called again for training and manoeuvres, and, as a Swiss recently said, they are now "à la hauteur", some of them having shown their condition by a march across Switzerland at a rate of over 30 miles a day.

For the first five months of the war, Switzerland spent about \$22,000,000 for mobilization and on military expenditure. From August 1st on, the contrast between the Canadian and Swiss press has been very marked. The former teeming with military preparations, new corps, recruiting, home guards, rifle clubs, municipal and private grants for equipment, etc. And not a word of any of this in the Swiss papers. Had they lost their patriotism or stamina! The truth was that Switzerland was ready, men, supplies, organization, leaders, aviation, everything. The army was in

the field, and every able-bodied man in the country up to 48 years of age, would be in his allotted place within a few hours if called upon. Their military training in times of peace had been for war, so when a grave danger of war was at the door, the people became an army without outward sign of anything like excitement or confusion. Their system was automatic and complete.

Why have I written all the above about a small foreign country for Canadians? I do not know that there is any particular affinity between the two, other than that there exists in both a wholesome democratic form of local self-government in civil affairs. The reason, however, that this information should interest Canadians is because it gives an example of what can be done in a country where the democratic form of administration is carried into the military domain, without the slightest trace of "militarism". The Swiss decentralised, democratic, universal-military-service system is the antithesis of the Canadian centralised, autocratic, voluntary-military-service system. And that is one reason why in 1912, as an example, the cost per militia-man was for Canada \$159.44, and for Switzerland (including Cantonal expenses) \$17.34.

Glorious heroism has shown that we have the right sort of men, but comparison shows that we have the wrong sort of military system.

We are not the only people thinking of these things. In 1911 I met an officer of the United States army who was one of three sent to report on the Swiss manoeuvres. Later on, I was very kindly allowed to peruse, at Washington, the reports they made, illustrated with many photographs. The report highly commended what they saw in Switzerland, and recommended for adoption by the United States a military system on the Swiss model. At the present moment the same matter is again receiving attention. The Swiss papers announce that three U.S. Army officers, Major Clarens C. Williams from Washington, Major Dwight-Edward Aultman U.S. Artillery, and Captain Bryant Bewitt, U.S. Infantry, are at Berne to visit, with the authority of the military department, matters of military interest in Switzerland.

The present head of the U.S. Army has publicly advocated universal compulsory-military-service (or training). Last month the Geneva "Tribune" had an article on military works which have recently appeared in the United States, and in it included an account from the *New York Times* on a lecture, by Colonel E. E. Hatch of the U.S. Army, to officers at their "War College" on the Swiss and Australian militias. The lecturer advocated the adoption in the United States of a similar system, and he terminated by an appeal "Is America worth fighting for? My compatriots, are they ready to give themselves up for their country like the Swiss and Australians? The sole manner to assure themselves of peace is to be prepared to make themselves respected." The editor of the "Tribune", concludes his references by saying "Pacifists though they be to the bottom, Americans nevertheless look in the face the ever present possibility of a

war. That assuredly will not rejoice the heart of those Utopianists who would convince us that this war is the last."

It is not likely that the United States will refrain from improving their military system for fear of offending Canada. As a matter of fact, they have retained something which we, with questionable wisdom, discarded in Canada at Confederation; namely the elasticity of State Militia control and co-operation, which gives them a condition of things comparable to that of the Swiss Canton military departmental administration, but, it would seem, without the same effective obligation to Federal authority for efficiency. Thus, in case of a sudden war, the individual might of all the great States of the Union, in men, money, and material, would at once be co-operating to raise a great army; and all the many factories of arms and ammunition would gush forth munitions of war.

We may therefore well feel a deep sense of thankfulness that the danger that has come to us did not strike from nearer home, for how could one congested, centralised department (no matter how enthusiastically confident) have been able to stem the overwhelming tide? It would seem that we have been living in a fool's paradise of self-satisfaction. Surely grave responsibility has been assumed by the two sets of men who, for want of knowledge, have on the one hand preached against taking any military precautions, or on the other hand, have assured the people that all the conditions for national safety already existed in Canada!

UNIVERSAL MILITARY SERVICE— THREE LETTERS

The reproduction of these communications is designed to bring home to the members of the Institute not only the shortcomings of the voluntary Military System, but the insidious and dangerous character of the retrograde legislation of 1906 in connection with the Militia Act; and in doing this it virtually closes the case so far as the several contributions (Transactions Nos. 14, 17, 18 and 20) of the writer are concerned.

"OUR DEFENCE FORCES"

To the Editor of the Mail and Empire:

Sir,—Your editorial of April 13 with the above heading is one of the most significant that has ever come to my attention on the subject. You have seized the very kernel of the matter, and no one can read your able summary of the position without realizing that there is, indeed, something "wrong in Israel," and that it behooves us as a patriotic people to find a remedy. The existing military system breaks down through the weight of the dollar.

The gist of your article is that militia expenditure has increased so enormously that Canada may never be able "to bring its effective land forces up to a quarter million of men, but it will insist on better service and higher efficiency." I venture to put the matter in a slightly different manner in saying that under the existing militia system it is quite impossible either to have men or efficiency. In the light of present-day world requirements for a civilized community of some eight million souls to be obliged to say it cannot put 250,000 trained men in the field for home defence is a confession of a lack of patriotism, virility or wisdom which should be very humiliating to a people with a proper sense of pride.

Leaving the world powers out of account, there is hardly a civilized nation of half our population that cannot put this number of trained men in the field, and some of them double that number, such as Bulgaria, Chili, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. More populous countries, such as Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Spain, have from a quarter of a million to more than a million trained men. And when you say that as things are going it would probably cost us nearly fifty million of dollars to have a militia of 250,000 in Canada, you mention a sum for which Japan can put 1,400,000 thoroughly trained officers and men in the field with an untrained reserve of 3,000,000 men behind.

You point out that the expense of the militia in the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1913, was \$10,272,000, and that General Sir Ian Hamilton

states in his report that 46,500 officers and men trained in Canada in that same year. If we take Switzerland for a comparison of results from expenditure in the same year (including military outlay by cantons) we have:

	Trained Army	
	Population	Strength
Canada.....	8,000,000	46,550
Switzerland.....	4,000,000	490,430
		Cost
	Cost	Per Man
Canada.....	\$10,272,000	\$220.00
Switzerland.....	8,500,000	17.34

It may be said that a reserve should be added to Sir Ian Hamilton's figures, but, on the other hand, there are probably in his total as many one-year's men of only 12 days' training as there are really trained men available as a reserve in the country at large.

On this basis we are therefore getting less than one-tenth as much value for our money expended on the militia as such a democratic and economical but patriotic country as Switzerland, and, our population being about double of hers, we are therefore proportionately producing a result less than one twentieth towards home defence of what she is producing.

The matter of numbers and dollars, however, tells but half the tale. Under our voluntary system, where such a heavy demand is made upon the time and money of all ranks (especially the officers) in recruiting for the force, were they obliged to qualify to the extent necessary in Switzerland we would have no militia.

The following number of days in schools of instruction and in training are necessary in Switzerland before the stated rank can be obtained (in addition to 67 to 92 for school of recruits): Corporal, 22 to 37; sergeant, 128; quartermaster-sergeant, 227; squadron or battery sergeant-major or color-sergeant, 195; sergeant major, 217; lieutenant, 251; captain, 534; major, 690; lieutenant-colonel, 789, and colonel brigadier, 867.

In Canada it would be entirely impossible for a man in civil life who has his living to earn to give anything like the above time to studies and practices and at the same time keep his ranks at their proper strength, which the law of his patriotic country does for the Swiss.

To show the thoroughness of detail, I might mention an annual inspection of arms and equipment I witnessed the other day, which is necessary for any member of the Elite (active militia) or Landwehr (1st reserve) who has not been called to training that year, and for all armed Landstrum (2nd reserve). The men in uniform had all their kit in front of them, every man with his two "little books" (one of general service and one of shooting.) and each man had completely dismembered his rifle, down to the last spring and screw, with the bare wood lying alongside. Woe to the man where rust or moth had set its mark! It might mean a month's jail and payment for putting the defective article in perfect condition. A smart young lieutenant on duty (without pay) turned out to be a jeweler underneath my

hotel, and the lift-man was in the ranks, a soldier every inch of him. A nation in arms! A true national militia, in which every able-bodied man must fit himself to play his part, and he reaps that benefit and bears those marks which physical training, military discipline and personal self-sacrifice bring in their train.

Our premier soldier, Lord Roberts, said: "No modification of the voluntary system, no amount of lavish expenditure, no cajolery, no juggling with figures, will ever produce an adequate and efficient home army on the voluntary system." And now we hear that "Lord Haldane apologist," as General Sir Ian Hamilton is called in the press, has been swung to an assertion that the system of compulsory training is good for the nation, when he has seen what it is doing in Australia and New Zealand, where Lord Kitchener's plans were adopted.

Why does a "nation in arms," a true national militia, work so smoothly in Switzerland? It may be said that it is the proper system, the fair system, of which a fair-minded people therefore approve, and in the carrying out of which they cordially co-operate. This is all true, but, while I may be mistaken, residence from time to time among these people has made me inclined to the belief that with them there is perhaps a more cordial national unanimity than in any other country.

As the realization of the somewhat complicated Canton and Federal relationship has become clearer to me, so an additional cause for the happy relationship between people and army in Switzerland becomes more apparent. We of the British Empire boast that the local government of the parts has tended to contentment in the whole. Canadians would be loath to exchange our decentralized form of government for an autocracy of Russia or Germany. I wonder how townships and counties, to say nothing of provinces, would like their local affairs all run from Ottawa.

We can therefore realize that when the local military control of a Swiss is exercised by his own canton through its official (chef de section) in his own locality the chance for friction is reduced to a minimum. Each of the 22 cantons has its own Military Department, which, in exerting control over the greater part of the troops, acts as a medium for promulgating the orders of the Federal Military Department, carrying out punishments of crimes, issuing of clothing and arms, inspections, annual rifle shooting, collecting military tax, etc.

This local control and supervision tends to promote the various clubs or societies in which Switzerland is so rich. First and foremost, the rifle clubs, which exist in every town and hamlet. The Commune must provide the ground, and the rifle club makes the range. Some have excellent club-houses. Every man in the active militia (Elite) and in the 1st reserve (Landwehr) must qualify in his annual shooting in one of these rifle clubs. The local interest promoted by local control not only serves to create and keep together officers' and non-commissioned officers' societies of the different branches of the service, but undoubtedly influences the success of gymnastic and wrestling clubs, "concours hippique" (a mixture of a

race meeting and a military horse show). But a few days ago the wrestlers of this district completed for prizes, and it would be difficult to find anywhere some fourscore more robust lads than stepped on the tanbark in the market place for a throw.

It must not be thought that slackness comes to the Swiss militia through the canton intervention. Once the soldier is found by it he must conform to the Federal instruction, organization and discipline, controlled by chiefs of each arm at headquarters and by some 233 instructors (all the permanent corps that there are in the country). The whole cost of all the 22 cantons for their military departments, control and supervision does not reach a combined total of \$200,000 annually, the remainder of before-mentioned total military "cost" being paid by the Federal Government.

I have entered thus fully into these considerations to bring the matter down to the very important point of direct comparison, both of the present and of the past. We had once in Canada a somewhat similar condition to that now existing in the Swiss cantons. We had a law which made it the duty of every young man to enroll and to train. We had in each parish not a Swiss "Chef de Section" nor an Australian "Area Officer," but a Canadian "Captain of the Militia". Each province looked after itself, and so well was it done in some that as late as 1866 Nova Scotia gave (annually) five or more days' training to 45,767 men for a total cost of 32 cents per man. Instead, however, of doing as Switzerland did, of continuing and improving the local control and the local interest of the provincial military departments, centralization was adopted as the corner-stone of the present Canadian militia. Thus, instead of having a democratic and decentralized condition, we have today an autocratic and centralized system.

Hence, we observe that general officer after general officer has shrunk back to whence he came from across the sea, and we feel that there is a large and a constant condition of unrest and almost unhappiness, at all events, of unceasing criticism, in connection with the militia as it exists.

The people in general are far too much interested in money-making to bother their heads as to whether the present system is wise or not. It would therefore, indeed, be well not only for the physical and moral well-being of the tens of millions which must populate our vast Dominion, but for the continuance of the present noble flag which floats over it, if much more serious thought was given by the people as to whether we cannot with advantage make the militia a wide-spread national, provincial and even municipal force for good and safety on the Swiss or (its imitators) the Australian, New Zealand, or South African, or, indeed, our old-time Canadian, plan of decentralized co-operation.

And this especially when the position in North America is that Mexico's turn has come and Canada may be next!

Yours, etc.,

WM. HAMILTON MERRITT.

Montreux, Switzerland, May 20.

MILITARISM

The Editor "Canadian Defence"

As many people, who are too selfish to advocate Universal Military service, term every form of training for national defence "Militarism", I send you an extract from a letter written me by Mr. Thomas B. Donovan, the editor of "Berne Oberland Journal". This gentleman is an Englishman, living at Interlaken, Switzerland, to whom I sent a copy of the June issue of "Canadian Defence", containing the reprint of my article on the "Swiss Military Law and what it accomplishes." Mr. Donovan writes, "After reading your interesting paper I lent it to an English friend who was brought up in Switzerland (his family having been resident here for more than thirty years), and his opinion coincided with mine, namely, that you have given an admirably clear exposition of the Swiss Military System, nothing of any moment in the organization having been omitted. The thing which impresses me particularly about the system is that it is eminently *of the people for the people*. It induces a strong national spirit, without encouraging militarism—the bane of some countries where universal service prevails. I speak with the experience of four years residence in Germany, where the officer class is one separate from and ranking above every other—a veritable caste. I think it safe to assert that *the spirit of militarism is absolutely non-existent in Switzerland*, despite its admirable military system. The spirit of Democracy pervades the whole. I think England is waking up now, and I shall not be at all surprised if, after the war, something approximate to the Swiss system is introduced."

The views expressed by Mr. Donovan had been confirmed by conversations a year before with a Swiss living in Germany and a German living in Switzerland. The former stated that the difference between the German and Swiss armies was that the effort in Germany was to keep the Army and the people apart (all officers are professional soldiers) and in Switzerland the army was the people and the people were the army. The latter gentleman informed me that he heard more about soldiering in Switzerland than in Germany, which is explained by the great effort made by the Swiss people as a whole to keep up the interest in national defence, through the many clubs and societies which exist everywhere in Switzerland; for example first and foremost by the Rifle Clubs of which there are over 4000 with upwards of a quarter of a million members—real live organizations through the law of obligatory shooting—the various officers and N.C.O.'s Societies, the "Concours Hippique" to promote horsemanship, the gymnastic and wrestling clubs, the students societies and many other organizations designed to directly or indirectly promote national defence.

I wonder if as many of our people still shudder so badly at the sacrifice to British institutions which Universal military training would be. Or do they shudder more at the thought of what would be the condition of the British Empire today, were it not for the splendid unselfish patriotism of our noble Allies who, unlike Britain and Canada, but like Australia, New

Zealand and South Africa, put into action the belief that payment of taxes education of youth and enforcement of justice are not on a different plane and do not rank above the sacred duty of defence of flag and country—surely without the universal military service of Belgium, France and Russia, the British Empire was doomed!

Yours, etc.,

WM. HAMILTON MERRITT.

Territet, Switzerland, Dec. 22nd, 1914.

GERMAN OPINION OF SWISS OFFICERS

So important is the matter of qualified leadership, that I am reproducing the opinion of a military correspondent who attended the Swiss manoeuvres when the German Kaiser was there in 1912. Other comments and comparisons are to be found in the 1912 Transactions of the Institute.

Major D. E. Morath, correspondent for the "Berliner Tageblatt," during the Swiss manoeuvres, wrote on 4th September to his paper:

"I find once more here an imposing number of officers from both the great and the small foreign armies. The field of battle shows the following representations:—German, French, Austrian, Russian, English, Australian, South African, Italian, Spanish, Roumanian, American, Belgium, Brazilian, Chilian, Peruvian, Guatamalian, Dutch, Uruguarian, Portuguese, Brazilian, Japanese and Argentine. Much larger still is the number of foreign editors of military publications and of the large European papers who are following the manoeuvres to observe and write. Why have all these people come here? Why does the little Swiss army, which, with its several diversions, nearly disappears in comparison with the masses of permanent armies of its neighbors, excite such a great interest? I believe that search is being made everywhere for an answer to a question which the English War Minister, Haldane, asked some years ago at a military conference: **'How can a citizen be turned into a satisfactory soldier in the shortest space of time, with the least possible expense, in safe-guarding to the greatest possible extent his individual liberty and his activity in his civil profession?'**

"This question does not interest England alone. It is murmured under the glistening arms of all the great and small states on whom our epoch of armed peace imposes heavy sacrifices. It is present before every government anxious not to allow the opportune moment to pass for revising their military organization. Now, in the midst of Europe, resounding with the clash of arms, there exists an organization which can pride itself on appreciable results, differing essentially from those accomplished elsewhere, and has given to Switzerland, over other neutral states, an advance worthy of consideration. What answer can we give to the prudent question of the English Minister?

Is the Swiss Citizen an Acceptable Soldier?

"The force and the value of an army depends on its officers. The Swiss officers are the best, physically and intellectually, that their people have to offer; they proceed on the principle: "Every profession is open to talent." And yet the Swiss officers do not form, in our Prussian sense, the first class of the nation. They would laugh in this republic if the uniform of an officer were to influence his civil professional status. Certainly he who carries the sword enjoys here certain advantages in the public and private view. But the militia officer plays a personal and gratuitous part clearly the greater in the defence and armament of his country. He makes sacrifices for it incomparably greater than the German officers either when on active service or not. The dignity of a commission is not only the result of successful endeavor on the part of a Swiss, an embellishment to his civil life; it is the mark of civic devotion to the State.

"The profound seriousness, the zeal with which the officers submit themselves to military duty has already borne splendid fruit. The German officer sees everywhere, with satisfaction, a conception of service prevailing which responds to his ideal. From this condition the influence exercised on the militia soldier. The subordinate cannot shirk with such an example. He is better led in this way to a proper soldierly spirit than by constraint and punishment. For two days during which I have lived with the soldier in the intimacy of his daily life, I was able to make the best kind of observations. I never saw a case where a superior spoke to his subordinate in other than a calm, reserved manner. Not once have I heard what is called the "barrack tone," and I saw nowhere the soldiers treated other than as citizens serving their country. What better school could one have?

"It is now some years ago since the French General Langlois, a zealous observer of the Swiss manoeuvres, admired the military institutions of the Confederation and did not exclude the officers from his praises. The exercises of this present year brought into the light, better than formerly, the initiative of the officer. On the march, even at the end of a long day, he does not relax his supervision of the pace, the department, the order and the cohesion of the troop. The young infantry lieutenant marches beside his section. His quiet observations, be it to praise or to blame, maintain constant good order. The captain of the company takes part, like a father, in the equitable distribution of rations. The officer commanding the battalion always finds time to think of how he can lessen fatigue. It is true that many orders are carried out more slowly, in a more hesitating manner, than with us. But there does not result, as in our case, a lot of bitterness and irritations which often poison an otherwise delightful manoeuvres. I have not seen, up to the present, a single Swiss officer enervated.

"The officers are young, on an average younger by ten years in the important commands, than with us, and physically of a vigour which would stand them in good stead in a campaign. For this reason they carry out

their duties with much zest. They arrive at responsible positions at an age when hard work still acts as a stimulant. No long, weary wait. No one is tied down to a subaltern grade until he has lost enthusiasm. And as stagnation is not a fear, the nerves remain hard and in good condition for war service.

"The result of the manoeuvres will permit of a judgment on the tactical aptitude of the officers and N.C.O.'s to conduct a fight, as well as on the instruction of the soldiers in the handling of their arms. But already one can now reply to the question at the first part of this article, asked by the English War Minister: THE SWISS CITIZEN, THANKS TO THE CAPACITY OF THEIR OFFICERS, HAS BECOME A SOLDIER HIGHLY ACCEPTABLE."

OUR MILITIA ACT

To the Editor of *The Mail Empire*

Sir,—What right has a Government to throw on an individual or a class the onus of choice of action in a matter of such vital importance as safety of flag and country? Yet this is the extraordinary position of national defence in Canada.

I, for one, would make protest, and, in advocating equal treatment for all, express cordial sympathy with complaints made by correspondents in the daily press. It is said firms dismiss men under salary who are of an age to serve, and, again, others write, "I will not volunteer, but take me, and take also the shirker who is waiting for my shoes." I even sympathize with the plaint of a Militia Officer, when he said, "I am willing to obey a an order; why has the Government not pluck enough to order me out?"

The *Toronto Globe* said editorially on the 17th of November: "The law has long provided for compulsory service should the need arise, and notwithstanding Col. Lavergne's fine-spun theories of the relation of colonies of their Motherland, the defence of Canada may be far more successfully undertaken on the plains of Flanders than on the banks of the St. Lawrence."

The *Globe* ought to be aware that silken hands of its own party have woven a web to nullify the underlying principle of our old militia Act, and it seems to be no less than scandalous that the subterfuge clauses in the present Militia Act of 1906 should have been allowed to remain without a protest.

If we turn to the old Militia Act, in the underlying spirit of which many of us glorified, we find that the old title-deeds of a true militia, which saved Canada in 1812-13 and 14, have been wiped out in the modification of 1906.

In the Old Act of 1886, the spirit of the splendid militia law of 1808 was toned down to the following:

In paragraph 10, "The militia shall consist of all male inhabitants of Canada of the age of 18 years and upwards, and under 60."

In paragraph 11 it was provided that this militia was classified into four (4) classes: 1st, unmarried, or widowers without children from 18 to 30; 2nd, ditto, ditto, from 30 to 45; 3rd, from 18 to 45 who are married or are widowers with children, and, 4th, from 45 to 60.

In para, 78, the officer commanding any militia district or division, or the officer commanding any corps of active militia may upon any sudden emergency, invasion, or insurrection, or immediate danger of either, call out the whole or any part of the militia within his command until the pleasure of his Majesty is known.

Para. 79 provides that his Majesty may call out the militia or any part thereof, for active service, either within or without Canada, at any time when it appears advisable so to do by reason of war, etc., and provision is made for service for one year, or any longer period that his Majesty appoints.

Now, what do we find in the "subterfuge" Act of 1906? As I read the Act, from a lay point of view, it would seem that the Government of that day, instead of retaining power in its own hands to judge of an emergency and call on the classes of the population as they may deem wise, took refuge behind a clause which empowers them to make regulations, and that it is necessary to call Parliament together to adopt these regulations for putting the Act into force. If this be the true interpretation, is it not in reality an extinguishing in 1906 of the spirit of military obligation which forms the basis of our old Militia Act; for, surely, at any time Parliament can rescind any act or make any new Act that it chooses when once called together!

The Militia Act of 1906 modifies the Act of 1886, and provides that para 10 shall now read, "The male inhabitants between 18 and 60 shall be **LIABLE** to serve in the militia."

Para. 15 classifies the male population liable to serve also into four classes, the same as before.

Para. 69 gives the Governor-General in Council power to place the militia (but not those "liable to serve in the militia") as provided in paras. 78 and 79 of the 1886 Act.

Para. 75 makes it necessary for a man to volunteer for service longer than one year, and paras. 144, 145 and 146 give the Governor in Council power to make regulations for carrying this Act into effect, but which regulations have to be ratified by the House of Commons and the Senate.

Surely the power not only to train men but to use them at a moment's notice for our national safety should be in the hands of our Government, who ought to put it into force on their own responsibility without hesitation when the country is in danger!

Of course the power of calling out untrained men is practically useless. The men should be trained. In this connection many may remember the words of Sir John French, spoken in this city on 24th of May, 1912: "If the

time ever comes, we must be ready to emulate the deeds of those who have gone before. You must prepare yourselves for that time. When the crisis arises I do not doubt that there will be tens of thousands willing, but unless they are prepared they will be useless. A great duty and trust rests upon you, and you should take advantage of the opportunities offered you by learning some of the rudiments of military training and military art, and becoming good and expert rifle shots."

And "Bobs" of blessed memory, in his farewell speech, when he visited Canada in 1911, said: "In my judgment, it is absolutely essential, even at the present day, for the safety and welfare of a nation that the whole male population should be prepared to take their share in its defence in times of danger."

There should be public and universal protest against the change in our Militia Act, and a call should be made upon the Government to take all steps necessary to revive the letter and spirit of our Magna Charta Act of 1808, and a demand made that class I (one) and then class 2 (two) of our male population should be called out for training and service.

Yours, etc.

WM. HAMILTON MERRITT.

Toronto, December 7th, 1915