

Our National Resources.

(From the London "Standard.")

From time to time it is useful, as well as being a duty, to inquire what means we have of safely guarding our Imperial interests. The permanent elements of strength in war are population and wealth, yet they are not the most accurate military efficiency, which must depend mainly on the state of organization, the public spirit of the people, and the ability of the commanders. The genius of Napoleon was not confined to the military art, that of General Leclerc to the art of civil war, and that of Count Moltke in the last two European struggles, were forces of inestimable value on the side on which they were exerted. But whether we have a military organization or not can be determined only by actual trial. Again, the attitude of the Christians towards the Porte in the contest that has just ended; the distrust of the negroes felt by the whites of the South, the intestine dissensions of Republicans and Bonapartists, of Communists and friends of order in France; and the disaffection of the Hungarians and Venetians towards Austria twelve years ago, were all causes of weakness, great as to foredoom those who suffered from them to defeat. In our own case, no Englishman doubts that the British people would prove themselves, were the occasion to rise, as ready to make sacrifices, and as ever their forefathers have been; and that they would act far more unitedly. As regards organization, however, it must be admitted we are suitably deficient. Even now we have the great advantage in our favor of our geographical position and our command of the sea ensure us against invasion, and can, therefore, take our own time to perfect our preparations, refraining from striking until we are ready to do so. This circumstance gives us another advantage, it enables us to choose our own field of attack, to perplex an enemy with doubts as to our intentions, and to prevent him from throwing his whole weight against a point, under penalty of being surprised and discomfited where he has left himself exposed. If we are wise enough to avail ourselves of our position, we have this one great superiority over any possible adversary. Have we the means, in men and money, to turn such good fortune to full account?

At the close of the war against revolutionary France the population of the United Kingdom is estimated to have been about sixteen millions. The figures cannot be given accurately, for the Irish census of 1845 is not trustworthy, but that of 1851 is higher than that of 1845, and would put them at a million less. At the same time the population of France was twenty-nine millions, and the numbers in Austria, Germany, and Russia in Europe are respectively estimated at twenty-eight millions, twenty million, and forty-eight millions. These figures show how comparatively small a Power we were when we brought to the termination of the most arduous and most glorious of our wars. Taking the five Great Powers together, we counted for only nine per cent of the aggregate; in other words, the remaining four were to us as ten to one. Further more, France outnumbered us sixty-one per cent, Austria nearly the same proportion, and Russia had very nearly three inhabitants to our one, without counting her possessions in Asia. In short, in respect to mere numbers we were then a much smaller Power than Italy, and smaller still than that which we reckon the whole United Kingdom. It is to be borne in mind, however, that Ireland was then disaffected as against France, and in 1859, or as Poland was against Austria, and the whole war against France we had to occupy the island with a large military force, and had to be constantly prepared against a French landing; we had to take up arms against a conspiracy. On these grounds, many persons would deprecate Ireland altogether from our strength. That, perhaps, would be going too far. We drew from Ireland our resources, both in men and money. Reading Napoleon's "Peninsular War" and Captain Murray's novels will remember how large a proportion of both our soldiers and sailors were then Irish. Furthermore, our greatest general and our best general officers—such as Hill, Beresford, and Stewart—were Irish. The aid we derived from Ireland was, therefore, far greater than the burdens she imposed upon us; but it is beyond question that the additional strength, and the fact that we were a mere fraction of what it would have been had her five or six millions been filled with the same spirit as that of England and Scotland. The whole defence of the Peninsula during the war we had to conduct against the Canadians were French, the South Africans Dutch, and our other settlements were petty, were scattered over the globe, and exposed to attack. The whole defence of the Peninsula during the war we had to conduct against the Canadians were French, the South Africans Dutch, and our other settlements were petty, were scattered over the globe, and exposed to attack. The whole defence of the Peninsula during the war we had to conduct against the Canadians were French, the South Africans Dutch, and our other settlements were petty, were scattered over the globe, and exposed to attack.

Medical.

that at the close of the gigantic struggle against France the force bearing arms in this country is reckoned as large as that which Germany could call out even in case of invasion. It is an obvious objection that the German reserves consist of men fully trained in the regular army, whereas half the British force in this country is untrained unskilled. Our purpose here, however, is to show how our grandfathers responded to the call upon their patriotism, not at all to argue that their military system was good. Yet it is not to be overlooked that the British bodies men were ready to turn out when need for their services arose, and that thus they enabled the Government to dispose at its pleasure of the whole regular army. When invasion from the camp of Boulogne was apprehended, volunteers started up all over the country to defend its shores. Again, the Irish Rebellion of 1798 was mainly suppressed and won from the aid of the British militia and yeomanry. In this one year the forces of the British on the other side of St. George's Channel were very little under one hundred and forty thousand men.

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