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[illegible]

ilitary work in the French army is getting into a very low condition. The two years' service system hit the regimental bands very hard in taking away from them one-half of their strength every year. Efficient bandmasters, however, and hard work might have compensated this, but now the supply of bandmasters is threatened. There were provided by means of annual competitions among army musicians for positions of master and assistant master, but for two years now these competitions have not been held, and already there are more than 100 regiments which, whatever they may have in the way of a band, have already no regulated bandmaster. The same conditions used, it appears, to be repeated by the Conservatives, which since 1905 has made one or another for neglecting them—*William Gilpin*.

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