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THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY SYSTEM.

*By Lieutenant J. W. LEWIS, West Kent Imperial
Yeomanry and Reserve of Officers.*

On Wednesday, 19th February, 1908.

Major-General Sir T. FRASER, K.C.B., C.M.G., in the Chair.

A Shortened Form of a Report Prepared for the National
Service League, September, 1907.

INTRODUCTION.

THE average Englishman who shirks from facing the obligation of national defence would be probably astonished, if not reassured, at the matter-of-fact and easy way in which that obligation is carried out in a matured system of Universal Service such as the Norwegian. In Norway it is not only every man's duty but his right and honour to serve, and not to be allowed to do so is regarded in the eyes of the law as the accompaniment of State punishment in its severer forms. The population of Norway is a little over two millions, the chief occupation being agricultural, while the area is slightly larger than the United Kingdom, of which more than a half is bare mountain land. The Norwegian character has been strengthened by a long and keen struggle for national independence, sustained with a patient tenacity well deserving its ultimate success. Social conditions may perhaps have tended to assist in this, and at the same time to have offered a singularly adaptable field for a system of common responsibility. In this connection the following extract from a book published in 1900 under Government auspices may be quoted:—"Among civilised States there is scarcely any that is so fortunate with regard to the equality of its social conditions as Norway. There is no nobility with political or economic privileges, no large estates, no capitalist class. The cultivable land is divided among a number of small freeholders who constitute the most numerous class of society and its sound nucleus. . . ."

The Norwegians, unlike ourselves, have never allowed the sense of individual obligation to the State to lapse, and there exists the recognition that, beyond the primitive duty of defending his family, every citizen has in common a responsibility for

the defence of his country. This responsibility has become so much an integral part of every man's life, as it was of his father's before him, that it is hard for him to realise the difficulties and dangers which in England are attached to its performance. Even the unpatriotic cannot conjure up any real or serious interference with their civil occupation and readily acknowledge not only its necessity, but also the physical and mental advantages to the nation. Each man recognises his own liability in case of war, and no experiments to avoid the real issue are necessary when this issue is courageously faced. The quiet attitude of the Norwegian people in the crisis with Sweden in 1905 should commend itself to us. Every individual knew that if war broke out his position would not be one of sitting at home and criticising, not unknown here. The nation had made up its mind, and though there was no desire for war, there was a strong determination to see the matter through. Individual training gave national cohesion and national confidence. The lack of this breeds the class (with whom we in England are unfortunately familiar) who in national emergencies vaunt themselves as the friends of every country but their own, and thus cloak their dread of being at last brought face to face with responsibilities hitherto successfully shirked. Surely the true criterion of national safety lies, not in Utopian ideals of universal peace, but in a strong, self-confident attitude at home.

In Norway outside every man's own particular sphere, and beyond the little narrowing circle in which he lives and thinks, is this great common work which every citizen is bound to do. In the performance of this the State is no respecter of persons; everybody is alike, and, with very few exceptions, has to do his share. No one, however much he opposes Universal Service, whether on the ground of religious scruples, or influenced by some false idea of liberty, can deny the broadening effect and the strong national cohesion which this common task must give. We may well pause to admire a system under which men have the *right* to take part in the defence of their country, and those rejected are ashamed to face the womenkind in their native villages.

Among the most striking impressions left by a closer observation of the Norwegian system are:—

1. Its essentially businesslike nature and its fairness, even if we allow the justice of a military tax, such as in Switzerland, and some possible compensation for the varying lengths of training. Everyone knows what is expected of him, and no necessity arises of pandering to the willing man at the expense of efficiency in order to avoid his premature resignation. A spirit of serious reality permeates the whole organisation, which can hardly exist in our Auxiliary Forces, where there is neither the professional element of the Regular Army nor the feeling of duty instilled by a common task.

2. The way in which the country can command for its defence the best physique and talent among the people, and the automatic manner in which each man's natural gifts are turned to real account.
3. The complete protection it affords from the paralysing panic and confusion in a crisis among those who have never handled a rifle or learnt the elements of national defence.
4. The extraordinary advantage we in England should have in any such system through the existence of our Regular Army as a pattern and means of instruction in every branch.

No nation has a better opportunity for a citizen army of high value, and no nation at this moment makes less use of this opportunity. It is difficult to see how we can ever obtain a just, business-like, or efficient system until we recognise, as our neighbours do, that a share in national defence is everyone's honour and duty, and not merely an amusement for the few.

An attempt has been made in the following pages to (1) describe generally the Norwegian system of universal service in its military aspects; (2) show from brief personal conversations during a visit to Norway its national influence and relation to industrial and commercial life. For the information gained I am indebted to the kindness and ready help not only of the Norwegian civil and military authorities, and more especially Captain Grottum, of the Oplandske Cavalry Corps, but also of everyone in the country whose opinion was sought.

PART I.

PRELIMINARY TRAINING.

Education in Norway is compulsory, and about 94 per cent. of the children are educated in the elementary schools, and about 6 per cent. in private schools, which are also day schools. Children go to the elementary schools at seven and leave about fourteen or fifteen. On reaching the fourth standard, when ten years old, both boys and girls undergo compulsory gymnastic instruction on the Swedish principles for about two hours per week. It was a pleasure to see, not only the healthy, vigorous appearance of the children, but their manners and general discipline. Every town school has its gymnasium. In the country districts, which are sparsely populated, there is, of course, a difficulty in carrying out gymnastics to the same extent, but as much as possible is done.

An Act has been passed this year by the Storting, extending the principle of compulsory rifle shooting from the High to the Elementary Schools. The application of the Act is so far subject in the towns to the decision of the school committee (a body chosen by the parents) and to the county authorities in the country. Despite the opposition of the Socialists and the

Peace Party, it is confidently expected that rifle shooting will become general in the elementary schools throughout Norway. The Government supply carbines and contribute towards the ammunition.

Training in patriotism is also not forgotten; for example, children are shown the origin of national duty in the primeval family obligation binding all its members to work for and defend it. In addition to this, they take part in the celebration of National Day, resembling Empire Day in this country.

There do not appear to be many actual School Cadet Corps, but separate corps are formed in the large towns voluntarily; *e.g.*, in Christiania there are four or five. The popularity of games and sport has increased in Norway of recent years. The games consist of football and longball, and the former is being taken up with a good deal of keenness. Games' courses are also arranged in the holidays for those children obliged to remain in the towns. Ski-ing is the great winter sport in Norway, and a good deal of ptarmigan shooting is done on the hills. Due partly, perhaps, to the accessibility of the country from the towns, healthy recreations are not confined to certain sections of the people, as in England, but are much more general.

After leaving school there is no compulsory rifle shooting or training, but of the 45,900 men who had fired 30 shots in 1906 at the various rifle clubs, 18,700 were under the military age.

MILITARY SYSTEM.

General Description.

The organisation of the Norwegian Army has been described as a "militia system with standing regular cadres." Everyone is liable to service in either the Army or Navy. Exemptions are limited to the clergy, pilots, men rejected for physical reasons, and those sentenced to hard labour or awaiting trial for offences likely to lead to such a sentence. These last are considered not to have the right to serve. In time of war, if one of the sons in a family is killed his next brother is exempt. There is at present no military tax payable by those not serving. Foreigners are liable for service, but are exempt in case of war with their own country. The ordinary service in the Army commences in the year of reaching twenty-three; *i.e.*, a man is enrolled at twenty-two and commences his recruit training in the following May. Anyone wishing to do so, and who is passed as physically fit, can commence his service at twenty, or, if he can show any good reason, postpone it until twenty-five. The service is arranged as follows:—

Six years in the Line—23-29.

Six years in the Landvarn—29-35.

Four years in the Landstorm—35-39.

Besides this, all men from eighteen to fifty, fit to carry arms, are included in the Landstorm Reserve.

The training in the Line consists in the first year of recruit course, followed by a regimental training, both carried out between May 1st and September 30th. Recruit training is not carried out in dépôts, but in the units to which the men have been posted. This training differs in length according to the various arms, as given in Table A., while the regimental training is twenty-four days for all. The subsequent Line training is twenty-four days in the second and third years, with the exception of the Fortress Artillery, who also come up in the fourth year. In every case the number of days is stated, exclusive of those occupied in going to and from the place of training. There are more than a dozen training centres distributed over the country, and the one visited at Gardermoen contained a considerable area of ground.

It may be questioned whether the difference in length of the various recruit courses with no corresponding higher rate of pay is quite fair.

A man is allowed to postpone his repetition courses in the Line for one or two years, but if he does so, is compelled to enter the Landvarn a corresponding number of years later. On completion of these courses he is free from all training, including even musketry, until he enters the Landvarn, which, where no postponement takes place, he will do in his seventh year. The training in the Landvarn consists of 24 days, done either in the seventh or eighth year of service. Units in this levy only train every alternate year, and at the same time, but quite separate from the recruits. After his twenty-four days in the Landvarn there is no further service in time of peace except in case of mobilisation or for the maintenance of order. The forces are divided into classes according to the year of service, and are in this way called up as required.

It should be added in the Tromsø, or northern, district, where the obligation to service was only introduced in 1898, the training at present is only for one year. A Norwegian is, therefore, liable for the defence of his country in case of need from eighteen to fifty, and during this time, if a landsman, belongs in succession to each of the above levies, in the first of which he does short intermittent periods of training to fit him for this duty.

The present organisation is based on the Act of 1885, and so reached its completion in 1902.

The number of men trained in the Line each year is about 10,400, and those in the Landvarn about 6,200.

The officers in the Line, above and including the rank of first lieutenant, are all regulars; in the Landvarn there is a permanent staff of regulars in each regiment, consisting of colonel, adjutant, quartermaster, and the commanders of the companies or squadrons; in addition to which there are about twenty-five non-commissioned officers. A regular officer only goes to the Landvarn as a captain. In the Landstorm the staff of Regulars consists of a colonel and quartermaster-sergeant. In the Line there may be a few Varnepligtige or Militia

sergeants, but as a rule, these non-commissioned officers do not get higher than the rank of corporal until passing into the Landvarn.

A Military Commission, of which Captain Grøttum is secretary, has just been appointed to consider a scheme of Army reorganisation. The following points will probably be among those considered :—

1. Reorganisation of the Line into 12 classes, thus abolishing the present Landvarn and making the Landstorm into Landvarn with six years' service. (This would not mean any alteration in the training, but the liability to service outside the Landstorm reserve or reinforcing class would then be eighteen years instead of sixteen, and possibly this class may become the Landstorm.)
2. Assimilation of peace and war organisation and establishments and reorganisation of establishments generally throughout the Army; *e.g.*, of the troops in the Tromsø or northern district, and probable formation of mounted infantry there.
3. Reorganisation of districts by east and west dividing lines, with a view to assigning to each a definite part of the frontier on mobilisation.
4. Alteration of the service age to twenty.

ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

Norway is divided into six districts—five Brigade districts and the Tromsø or Northern district. The former are under the command of five major-generals, the latter under a colonel. These five Brigade districts are divided into twenty battalion districts, which are again sub-divided into company districts. The various arms are organised in corps, each of which consists of one regiment or battalion of Line, one of Landvarn, and one of Landstorm.

Under the King, the administration is in the hands of the War Department with its Army and Naval sub-divisions; command in those of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Admiral-in-Chief of the Navy, each with his own staff department.

The general administration is not so decentralised or so interwoven with local civil administration as in Switzerland.

REGISTRATION AND RECRUITING.

(*See also Appendix B.*)

For purposes of recruiting, the five southern ecclesiastical dioceses, or "stifter," are taken and divided into twenty battalion enrolment districts. These are sub-divided into circuits, ballot

districts and wards. For each battalion district there is a Supervising Commission, and in each ballot district a District Commission, on both of which the civil and military authorities are represented.

Actual enrolment takes place in the ballot districts, at one or more annual sessions, held by both Commissions together. The men are examined as to their particular employment or trade in order that their capacities may be made the most of. They are then measured and medically examined. Those fit, but under 5 ft. 2½ in. and not less than 5 ft. 2½ in., are postponed for one year; those less, with the partially fit, are transferred to the Train Corps. Each man passed for service then chooses a number, but irrespective of this he may be made to serve in the longer trained arms if his qualifications are considered suitable. If sufficient numbers do not volunteer for these arms, the lowest numbers are taken, provided they have the necessary qualifications.

Subject to restrictions men enrolled are allowed to emigrate, but on returning are liable to complete their service, if they report themselves up to forty, if not up to forty-seven. Men not enrolled must report themselves before emigration, but if they do not return before thirty-two, are exempt from service.

OFFICERS.

The Norwegians justly pride themselves on their system of training for officers and non-commissioned officers. The officers consist of two classes—firstly, those who adopt a permanent military career and who may be called Regular; secondly, those who elect to do their service as officers and who are known as Varnepligtige or Militia. Both classes are trained in the War School at Christiania, which is divided into a lower and upper division. The Varnepligtige go through only a course of one year in the lower division, while for the regular officers there is a qualifying course for a further two years in the upper. Before presenting themselves as candidates for the lower division, all do a recruit and regimental training. In the infantry this is done in a separate company from the men at one of the training centres, and in the special branches of the service, such as cavalry and artillery, either in the schools for non-commissioned officers or in one of the units, separate to that of the men, during recruit training. While at the training all aspirants are paid at the rate of the men. Candidates have to be students of the University with a matriculation degree, or students of the technical colleges at Christiania, Trondhjem and Bergen, and in the case of Infantry and Cavalry graduates from the mercantile colleges are also taken. The number admitted is limited and decided each year by the Storting. There is, therefore, severe competition, and admission is decided on the marks obtained in the previous matriculation and other examinations mentioned. The school year lasts from September 15 to August 31. Up to April 30 the instruction is partly theoretical and partly practical,

and includes all branches of military study. There are certain voluntary subjects, and the cavalry, artillery and engineers are taught riding, and go through a veterinary course of about twenty lessons. From about May 1 to August 31 practical exercises and examinations in practical subjects are held.

During the year's course in the lower division cadets receive free education and pay at the rate of about £4 9s. per month. After a completed course they are bound to accept employment as Varnepligtige officers unless promoted to the upper division. In both divisions they make their own arrangements about quarters. At the close of the first year the examination is held, which is a final one for the Varnepligtige and a qualifying one for the regular officer.

The subsequent service of the successful Varnepligtige officer consists in recruit and regimental training as second lieutenant in the first year after leaving the War School and further regimental courses for five years in the Line and two in the Landvarn. It apparently does not always follow that an officer of this class is called up in each of these years, but is liable to be so. There is also a liability to attend every other year the 'special officers' instruction for about eight days before the regimental course. Varnepligtige officers may rise to the rank of lieutenant in the Line and captain in the Landvarn. In the Landstorm they may even rise to lieutenant-colonel, but not often to command. There is a movement on foot to increase their training with a view to making them more fit for command in this levy. A Varnepligtige officer is paid while on service at a monthly rate in most cases rather lower than that of regular officers on "national" employment. All these officers on leaving the War School receive an equipment allowance of from £11 to £16 12s., according to their arm.

It may be thought surprising that no difficulty is found in obtaining this class of officer, considering the time and qualifications required with such pay. This is, however, not the case, as there are always plenty of men anxious to do their service as officers, and the training is considered of value for ordinary life. Of Varnepligtige officers met, one is now a leading banker in Christiania and two others journalists, one of these for a Socialist paper.

We now turn to the regular officer. For admission into the upper division of the War School cadets must be under twenty-five years of age and, in addition to the entrance qualifications demanded for the lower division, must have either passed the final examination of this division or gone through a non-commissioned officers' school and passed the sergeants' examination and have done duty as sergeant for at least one year's military training. A knowledge of French is also expected. Apparently not many non-commissioned officers take advantage of this opportunity for commissioned rank, chiefly because of the education qualifications demanded. The number of cadets is limited; *e.g.*, this year only fourteen are admitted, hence, as in

the lower division, competition is severe. Those who enter from the non-commissioned officers' schools have free tuition and about £2 a month. Otherwise cadets in the upper division pay for their instruction, but receive Government pay while on training with the troops. There is also an outfit allowance given.

After leaving the War School with the rank of first lieutenant, the service of a regular officer consists, in the Line, if not an instructor at any of the schools or on the staff, in recruit and regimental training every summer, and in the Landvarn regimental training every other year. When not thus employed he is, in the case of a regimental, company, or squadron leader, or if on the staff of a Landvarn regiment, engaged in administering his command. This, of course, does not take all his time and, generally speaking, regular officers have some form of civil employment, *e.g.*, farms to look after; but this is often a difficulty and would in this country probably lead to this class of officer being limited to those with independent means. The term "national" is applied to those regular officers who are not employed the whole year, and their pay (below field rank) is less than in the case of those continuously employed. The pay varies from £400 per annum for a general to about £80 for an infantry lieutenant, in addition to which a daily allowance is given to regulars on "national" employment and *Varnepligtige* during training, varying from about 1s. to 3s. In war-time there are additions to the pay in all ranks, and officers as well as men get an allowance for families. The age limit varies from forty-five years in case of lieutenants to sixty-eight for a general. A system of contributory pensions is in force, under which a monthly contribution is paid by the officers and the Government into a fund from which the pension is derived, varying according to rank from about £133 to £194. Promotion is very slow. In the infantry promotion to captain is confined within the respective brigades, in other cases to the arm in question.

Before promotion in the Royal Engineers or Artillery, officers have to pass through the course in the second division of the Staff College.

The number of Regular officers is about eight hundred. Regular officers who wish to join the staff can go direct from the War School to the Military Academy or Staff College.

The Academy is divided into two divisions, one for training officers for the staff, the other giving the special training necessary for senior officers of engineers and artillery. Naval officers are taken in each division. The course lasts nearly two years.

The ordinary expenses of a regimental officer are not large. Bands are kept up by the Government and the messing is very moderate. In the Oplandske Cavalry Corps the daily messing was about 2s. 3d. per day, to which may be added 1s. to 1s. 6d. for wine. The food was excellent, the arrangements being in

the hands of a caterer. Of course, it has to be borne in mind that regimental messes only exist during the summer training and that at other times the permanent regimental officers have to make their own arrangements for quarters and living. Mounted officers are allowed a military groom during the training. Uniform is rather an expense, but only regular officers have full dress.

In conclusion, it may be said that the Norwegian officer, whether regular or *Varnepligtige*, appears well up to his work, with a keen, intelligent idea of his profession and a strong spirit of self-reliance and independence. In this connection it may be mentioned that many officers, although not on duty at the manoeuvres, attended as spectators. In the higher commands it may be questionable whether the amount of practice obtained is sufficient to meet the strain of war. In England it would probably be found wiser to rely on our regular army for the posts of higher commands in any properly organised citizen force.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Non-commissioned officers for the infantry are trained in Brigade Schools, of which there are five, and one Corporals' School. There is also a school for each of the special arms, cavalry, artillery and engineers, and for the cavalry a Corporals' School in addition. Besides these, the two companies of King's Norwegian Guards are in reality a Non-Commissioned Officers' School, and successful aspirants here have the advantage of not being confined for apportionment to any one particular brigade. In the cavalry and infantry (including the Guards) the school course lasts for three years, in the engineers and artillery for four years. The school for the non-commissioned officers of the position artillery is held in the Oscarsborg Fort; the course lasts for three years, one year of which is spent at the Submarine Mining School. The training in these schools is not only of a military character, but is valued very highly as a general education. The result is no lack of candidates, who come practically entirely from the country districts.

Taking one of the Infantry Brigade Schools as an example, the following are the main features in the scheme:—

The candidates are organised in a company. To gain admission they must be eighteen years old, be able to produce a certificate of character and to pass an elementary examination in (1) their own language, writing and reading; (2) Norwegian history; (3) geography; (4) arithmetic. All have to do a recruit and regimental course as ordinary soldiers before commencing the school instruction.

The instruction consists of theoretical or winter training, followed by twelve weeks' practical training in the summer, which latter is carried out away from the school, the men acting as a unit. In the manoeuvres this year a great many non-commissioned officers' schools were present as units on each

side. The scheme drawn up for these schools is very thorough and if carried out in the right spirit by the instructors should result in the non-commissioned officers being anything but mere machines.

The men have quarters, food and clothing provided while at the schools, and the ordinary soldier's rate of pay.

Similar to the commissioned ranks, there are two classes of non-commissioned officers, the regular and the Varnepligtige, while regular non-commissioned officers not employed during the whole year are known as "national." Those who do best in the final examinations are selected as regulars and the others become Varnepligtige. As, however, only about five per cent. can become regulars, the competition for the former posts is very severe, and often on leaving the school a man will have to wait a considerable time for his appointment; e.g., an infantry sergeant met on manoeuvres had had to wait four years. Those who have to wait become in the meantime Varnepligtige sergeants or corporals with the remainder who are not good enough or who do not want the permanent posts.

The subsequent service for Varnepligtige non-commissioned officers after leaving the school is confined, in ordinary circumstances, to a regimental course in each of the first three years, and again in the first or second year in the Landvarn. In the case of those from the King's Norwegian Guards, the former is limited to two years. On mobilisation they are liable for service, whatever year classes are called up.

The annual pay varies from about £93 for a sergeant-major employed throughout the year to £4 for a corporal on "national" employment. Varnepligtige are paid only during actual service.

The non-commissioned officers of both classes provide their own food on training; the mess is managed by a caterer, and the Government supply food at cheap rates. Messing is about one shilling per day.

The allowance towards wife and families is, in the case of non-commissioned officers, about 1s. 1d. per day.

The number of regular non-commissioned officers is about 2,200.

CAVALRY.

The Norwegian cavalry is small, and neither the country nor the horses are suitable to this arm as understood by us. The Norwegians are not natural horsemen and very few have any idea of riding or horsemanship before being called up. This being the case, the horses are perhaps more suitable than they otherwise would be, as they are small, easy though rough to ride, extremely hardy, and not accustomed to any but the roughest treatment. The latter is borne out by the rather rough and ready standard of horsemanship and by the appearance of the horses, which were, without exception, in excellent condition.

Considering the short training and previous knowledge of the men, the results are decidedly good, as the squadrons drill well together and the men present a soldierly appearance; but for anything beyond mounted infantry work much could probably not be expected. The dismounted work appeared good, and was done without noise and commotion. Most of the men in the two regiments seen were recruited from the country, and individually had nothing like the intelligent bearing of our own Yeomanry. Probably if given the same training and with the advantage to discipline resulting from a compulsory system, the latter would surpass the Norwegians. In ordinary life the men apparently ride seldom, if at all; their fitness for service therefore, if called up either in the interval between Line and Landvarn training or subsequently, may well be questioned. The riding among the regular officers is good; most of them are mounted on well-bred English or Irish horses. There is a good deal of keenness for steeple-chasing, which is encouraged by the authorities. All regular officers and non-commissioned officers in the cavalry have to attend an eight-months' course (two winters) at the Riding School at Christiania, and for a certain number of the regular staff in all arms there are gymnastic courses lasting two winters.

The men are armed with a carbine, which has a side magazine holding five cartridges. This they carry on their backs, secured by a short strap to the belt. All ranks carry a sword, and the officers and non-commissioned officers a revolver. At present the Landstorm cavalry have no horses.

INFANTRY.

Naturally in this arm a short training bears a more complete result, and this is considerably increased by the national characteristics. The Norwegian infantry may be said to be an encouraging example of a short system of compulsory service. Their physique and powers of endurance are admirable. They march well and present a fine, soldierly appearance, while their drill is characterised by far more precision than might be expected from such a period of training. They are armed with a magazine rifle (the magazine being similar to the cavalry carbine), and carry a bayonet. Sergeant-majors and officers have a revolver. The pack which the infantry carry, weighing at least forty-eight pounds, is a heavy additional burden. Attached to this each man carries a quarter section of a light bivouac tent and pole, while about half the company carry a mess-tin and the rest entrenching tools.

ARTILLERY.

It is, of course, difficult for any but an artilleryman to hazard an opinion as to the results of a short training in this arm, but a few points may be mentioned. The Norwegian field guns are good and quite up-to-date—all German Q.F. 7.5 cm.

They fire up to 5,500 metres, and the weight of the shell is about 13 lbs. The men are chosen indiscriminately for the artillery, and the most intelligent among the recruits are trained as gunlayers. According to one of the officers, the chief difficulty is not so much to teach the men to manipulate the guns as to drive, for which, from the nature of the country, special aptitude is required. This is, however, lessened by the horses, which, whatever their shortcomings in the cavalry, are excellent in draught. Certainly at the review which concluded the manoeuvres, the driving in the artillery compared well with far more highly trained batteries. Some firing with live shell was witnessed at Gardermoen; and a German officer also present pronounced it as decidedly good. There could be no question of the keenness and intelligence displayed by all ranks, the horses were well brought up and the guns smartly moved. Batteries are allowed about three hundred rounds for practice per annum.

The officers and non-commissioned officers seemed thoroughly up to their work, and this was subsequently confirmed at the manoeuvres by the British military attaché.

The guns in the mountain batteries fire a shell of about 10 lbs. and are mounted on light carriages.

The fortresses on the frontier were abolished on the dissolution of the union, and the present forts number about six, situated on the coast, of which Oscarsborg is the chief.

All regular artillery officers and non-commissioned officers have to go through a course of 30 days at the Artillery Shooting School, which is held in September and October, and also a driving course lasting one winter. The former is also attended by some of the infantry staff officers.

Machine gun sections, armed with the Hotchkiss machine gun, are attached, four to each cavalry and one to each infantry unit. In the former they are carried on horses, in the latter on a small carriage. If the training of the former may be judged from the way in which a sudden retirement was carried out during the manoeuvres, it is certainly satisfactory.

ENGINEERS.

Most of the rank and file in the engineers are men with technical knowledge, and this to a great measure is a compensation for the shortness of training. One of the principal advantages of a system of universal service is the use which can be made for national defence of skill and ability among the civilian population. The officers and non-commissioned officers undergo a very thorough training and the work by the pontoon company seen on manoeuvres was exceptionally good.

TRAIN, INTENDANTUR, MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SERVICES.

The train corps is divided into large and small train, and in the latter are placed those men who are below the physical

standard. In peace the Government transport is usually sufficient, but for war both waggons and harness are levied. Additional transport required in peace is hired. For the Intendantur Corps, which manages the pay, clothing, feeding and equipment, are enlisted such men as bakers, tailors, shoemakers, who besides their trades receive a certain amount of military training. Medical students become officers in the medical corps, while the rank and file are recruited from dentists, chemists and men with short sight. Veterinary surgeons and students commence their training as ordinary soldiers and assistants to the veterinary officers, followed by promotion to non-commissioned rank. Subsequent appointment as veterinary officer depends in the case of students on their passing the civil veterinary examination.

QUARTERS, ETC.

While serving the men receive 2d. per day, which can only be regarded as pocket money. Those who are married receive a daily allowance of about 2½d. towards supporting their wife, and 1½d. for every child under sixteen. Both pay and allowances are increased in war time.

Food and clothing are provided free; the former is much the same as that provided in our own Army, and no complaints could be found, except that it is monotonous.

The regimental barracks seen at Gardermoen, one of the large training centres, resemble our huts, but, it must be remembered, are only used in summer. The rooms are high and airy, and contain about twenty men, while the non-commissioned officers share smaller rooms. The washing arrangements appeared very scanty, but separate accommodation is provided for meals. A large number of men were also in tents of a good pattern, but as sixteen men are told off to each they are rather crowded. In all cases the men have to live in the quarters assigned to them. A visit was also paid to the Non-Commissioned Officers' Cavalry School at Christiania, which is a permanent stone-built barracks; here the arrangements were very comfortable—ten men to a room, baths, etc.

HORSES.

The provision of horses for the Army falls under three heads:—

1. Horses which are the property of the State and attached to the various training establishments. These number about 270 to 300, and are mostly purchased in Ireland for about £40 to £50. In the Ordnance Squadron, which is a kind of reserve horse squadron, the horses are let out to civilians when not required.

2. Horses procured in the country. These are obtained mostly by what is known as the quarter system. Under this a farmer, in districts where the horses are suitable to military



THE BARR AND STROUD RANGEFINDER.
F.T. TYPE. 26½ INCHES BASE. ON TRIPOD MOUNTING.

For Navigational purposes on board War-ships, for use on board Torpedo-Boat Destroyers and for Land Service. Although the use of the Tripod ensures greater accuracy, the Instrument is designed for use when held in the hands, and very accurate readings can be taken in this way.

Approximate uncertainty of observation :—

1 yard	at	400
6 yards	at	1,000
24	"	2,000
150	"	5,000

BARR AND STROUD,
 ANNIESLAND,
 GLASGOW.

purposes, contracts to keep a horse for the use of the Army in return for an annual payment of about £5 and about 1s. per day in peace and threepence in war while the horse is called up. A cavalry regiment, for example, has something like 600 of these quarters in its district. Such horses as are required are called up every year for recruit and regimental training; and not only the horse, but also the rider, who may come from quite a different locality, is known in the squadron by the name of the quarter. This obligation, though voluntarily incurred by the farmer, rests as a kind of mortgage on the farm for the period undertaken; in some cases two farmers will share a quarter between them. In case of injury, the compensation is paid by valuation. As well as for the summer exercises, these horses are called up for training in remount schools (90 days in the cavalry, 45 days other arms).

For the infantry and mountain batteries, and where necessary as a supplement in other cases, horses are hired for the annual trainings.

In case of war the number required would be made up by requisition under the law passed in 1896, which enables the military authorities to take over forty per cent. of the horses and waggons in each parish. When taken over, the horse is paid for in the same way as the waggons. A register of all suitable horses is kept.

3. Regular cavalry officers on permanent service and staff officers are obliged to keep horses. The Government pay up to £55 towards first purchase, and allow seven-tenths of original purchase money towards another horse, when required. No stipulations are made as to use of these horses, which become the property of the officer; but there are certain conditions as to right of sale.

An annual forage allowance of about £35 is granted to officers keeping their own horses.

All other officers and non-commissioned officers obtain horses in the same way as the men.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

Rifle shooting in Norway can perhaps hardly be called a national pastime in the light in which it is regarded in Switzerland, but is certainly advancing. It has commanded more popularity in the country than in the town districts, but generally interest and numbers are increasing. This may chiefly be ascribed to the Government's recognition of the Rifle Clubs as a valuable means of both preparatory and supplementary training for army musketry. The privileges afforded in return for State aid by the clubs to men prior to their service, and in the early years of Line and Landvarn training, have been very effective.

Mention has already been made of the introduction of the shooting in town schools, and a new regulation has been made, enabling men to take their rifles home, and as these rifles are better than those obtainable in the clubs, this is a distinct advantage.

Norwegian rifle shooting may be considered under two heads :—

1. Voluntary, or that carried out by the Rifle Clubs.
2. Compulsory, or the system of musketry in the Army.

1. *Rifle Clubs*.—The club organisation is based on the following lines : In each county, and in the towns of Christiania, Bergen and Trondhjem, a Rifle Society is formed, corresponding in as many cases as possible to the military battalion district, and under its leadership are embraced the various district clubs. Last year there were twenty-two of these societies, with 1,496 clubs, in the twenty amter, or counties, into which Norway is divided. The number of these clubs has steadily increased from 1894, when the total number in the country stood at 822.

The societies elect commissioners, who form their joint administration, and three representatives of the latter, with one nominated by the King, constitute the National Rifle Administration.

The Government make a substantial grant every year to the National Rifle Administration under certain conditions, with the object of making this organisation a means to encourage preliminary practice among recruits before enrolment and further practice in the early years of Line and Landvarn service. They also undertake to lend rifles and to contribute towards the provision of ranges, ground for which can be taken under compulsory powers. In 1906 there were 45,960 men in the Rifle Clubs who had fired the required number of rounds, of whom 18,753 were under the age of service, and 10,361 in the levies. The excellent results of this definite State encouragement may be seen from the fact that the number of those who fired as recruits and after enrolment was nearly trebled between 1894 and 1906. At the manœuvres this year a party of 50 Rifle Club members was attached to the Northern Army.

2. *Army Musketry*.—No compulsory musketry exists other than during the actual training; a man may, therefore, after completing his third repetition course in the Line, never fire his rifle until he appears for his Landvarn training four or five years later, and after this not again till called up for service. The same fault would, therefore, appear to exist, so common in our own Army, of hurrying men through a certain number of rounds in a comparatively short time, followed by a long interval in which they never fire their rifles.

There has been an improvement in the Army musketry since 1902, but the present standard cannot be called high. That attained in the Landvarn, or First Reserve, is distinctly lower than in the Line, which seems to confirm the necessity for intermediate compulsory practice. The effect of the Voluntary Rifle Organisation on Army musketry has been excellent, and the new regulation allowing men to take their rifles home is expected to increase this. In this connection the Norwegians seem to be suffering, like ourselves, from depending on voluntary efforts, and if all Line and Landvarn men were compelled to fire thirty shots in a rifle club in the years in which they do no training, this effect would probably be still further increased.

There are courses at the Shooting School for a certain number of regular infantry officers and non-commissioned officers, lasting thirty days, in September and October.

DISCIPLINE AND MILITARY LAW.

On the whole the discipline seemed good, and the attitude of the non-commissioned officers and men towards the officers respectful. No complaints could be found of the treatment of the rank and file by the officers; on the contrary, one of the Foreign Attachés alluded to this as possibly being too friendly to stand the strain of active service; but in any case the training of the Norwegian Regimental Officer should certainly command confidence and the recognition by the men of a higher professional knowledge.

In regard to the Norwegian soldier's appearance and the cleaning of uniform, saddlery, even to the condition of the stables, the discipline seemed unnecessarily lax, as there is not much to be gained by slackness in this respect, under favourable conditions, such as barracks, in the summer.

There is very little difficulty with the men, and courts-martial are very exceptional; *e.g.*, a cavalry officer stated that during one of the recent recruit courses in his regiment the only offence was a man being a little late in getting back from leave of absence.

The system of punishment is regulated by an elaborate military code. The military penal law is based essentially on the civil law. Varnepligtige soldiers are liable to this law only during their actual training, which includes the time spent in going to and from the centre, or while serving in Government workshops, or otherwise. Those on permanent employ are always liable.

MOBILISATION AND MANŒUVRES.

No general mobilisation has up to the present been carried out, but there have been partial mobilisations at indefinite times; *e.g.*, in 1895 and 1897 there were practise mobilisations for the First and Second Brigades. During the 1905 crisis the Line and Landstorm were mobilised for several months, and the way in which the men responded was considered most satisfactory, the percentage of absentees being very small. Within twenty-four hours of the order being issued, the Landstorm were mobilised and in their positions on the frontier. This is decidedly good in the levy which possibly more than the others could claim an excuse for slowness; at the same time, the whole country was probably very much on the alert, and had probably been so for some time previous to the receipt of the order.

The approximate numbers on mobilisation are estimated as :—

Line	45,000
Landvarn	30,000
Landstorm	20,000

In addition to the various units, reserves for these are mobilised at once in dépôts.

Certain classes whose ordinary civil work is of importance to the Army and Navy on mobilisation, may, at the discretion of the General Officer Commanding, be exempted either entirely or from immediate attendance; *e.g.*, the railway employees, with the exception of telegraphists, are allowed ten days longer.

Mobilisation in the Line and Landvarn is by battalion districts, in the Landstorm by company districts. Fifteen per cent. in Line and Landvarn, and about twenty-five per cent. in the Landstorm, was mentioned by an officer of considerable experience, as being an average deduction on mobilisation.

There is no regular time for manœuvres, but usually they take place every two or three years in different parts of the country; *e.g.*, in 1901 they were held in the Trondhjem district, and this year in the Christiania district.

The latter, in the first week of September, were probably the largest ever held in Norway. About 14,000 troops were engaged, divided into an invading and defending force. These consisted principally of Line units, with a few battalions of Landvarn, and in addition the various schools of instruction. The conditions were realistic, but there were no night operations or entrenching. Two of the days were very wet, and the endurance and spirit of the men was excellent. Hardly a man fell out, and at the close only forty-one cases of sickness could be discovered in the whole force engaged. From a military point of view there was a general feeling among the principal Foreign Military Attachés that the material in the Army is excellent, and results from the short training surprising. The direction of the manœuvres by the Staff, and the issue of orders, caused some adverse comments. This to some extent is only to be expected from the little experience gained by the Staff and senior officers in moving large bodies of troops, and should not occur in England, where any citizen force would have the advantage of regular officers on the Staff. While the marching qualities of the infantry called forth universal admiration, their fire discipline was somewhat deficient, as there appeared to be a good deal of carelessness in adjustment of sights, and the expenditure of ammunition was wasteful.

The attitude of the inhabitants was one of intelligent and sympathetic interest, not unmixed with pride. They seem to regard the Army as part of themselves; practically every farmer had a house-party, and the national flag was conspicuous everywhere. The troops have a legal right to go over any ground during manœuvres, and more use was perhaps made of this than was necessary. The farmers are paid compensation for damage, and their attitude is one of good-humoured tolerance.

GENERAL.

There does not appear to be the same amount of voluntary work done as in Switzerland. When not training in the winter,

war games are played among the officers, and towards these the Government make a grant.

Staff rides in June and July, lasting eight to ten days, are held for regular officers in years in which they are not engaged on a regimental course, and occasional Parliamentary grants are given towards these.

The Laws of Requisition give the Military Authorities power from the moment of mobilisation to make use of—in return for compensation—all the property, and to a certain extent to demand the labour of the inhabitants. By the Horse Enlistment Act, all horses and waggons suitable for military purposes are liable, and this liability is apportioned beforehand over the whole country, and each district has to produce, when required, its share. This Act can also be used for manœuvres. The more general power is exercised only after mobilisation for war by requisition, and a receipt is given on which subsequent payment can be demanded from the Government. These requisitions are to be addressed to the local civil authorities, except in case of emergency, when they may be levied directly.

The Army Estimates for 1906-7 amount to 12,995,000 Kr., or about £721,944.

PART II.

NATIONAL INFLUENCE AND RELATION TO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LIFE.

As to the effect of the system on the civil life of the people generally, inquiries were made at Christiania, Trondhjem, and elsewhere, among the commercial, professional and agricultural sections of the community. The result was the practical unanimity of all on the following points:—

1. That no real or serious interference with professional occupations or trade exists as a result of the Service. Among those engaged in trade and employers of labour there is a distinct admission of a certain amount of inconvenience, but this is chiefly confined to the first or recruit year, when the training is longer. At the same time, all admit the necessity of the system, and, provided the training is not extended, the absence of any real ground for complaint. There is a general feeling that the commercial and industrial life of the country is now accustomed to it, and, therefore, knows what to expect and how to adapt itself. A wish was expressed that the training should commence as early as possible as the men being younger, their value is not so great, and substitutes can be obtained more easily, but at the same time it was desirable that a choice of two or three years for commencement should be allowed. Many also stated that it would be an advantage if the men could choose between the winter and summer, which, though not possible in Norway, owing to the severity of the winter, would be so in England. No real difficulty is found in arranging for the absence of the men on the ordinary training, of which there is due notice, but, as would be expected, the difficulty is greater in the event of any

sudden call. The annual absences for the ordinary training are often a matter of adjustment in the various departments, *e.g.*, in shops. If trade is brisk and substitutes can be obtained, they are engaged in mills and factories; suitable clerks are, perhaps, not so easy to get, and in these cases the head of a business will possibly take no holiday in the year in which his chief man has to train, or, as one shipowner mentioned, it merely means that the "least pressing business stands over for a few months till we have the full staff again."

The opportunity allowed of postponing the training courses assists materially, especially in the case of individuals. No one could be found to admit that the country would be better if the system were abolished.

No other holidays are given in the same year to those away on training. The short repetition courses are regarded by many employers as holidays and so has no interference with the ordinary routine of business. Most employers pay their clerks and salaried employees while away, and in some cases workmen receive their wages, but this cannot be said to be general. In the case of the married men the Government make an additional allowance for the wife and each child, while in some cases the employer also assists by an advance or payment of wages, *e.g.*, in 1905. Few of the men, however, are married when doing recruit course. The whole question of wages during service is an important one, and may be said to constitute the chief complaint of the manual labourer or workman who is paid by the day. At present he is in proportionally a worse position than a wealthier man. The payment of full wages is difficult, as on one side the Government, on the other the employers, allege the expense is too great. The men are fed, clothed and receive travelling expenses and twopence per day. It may be questioned, therefore, whether in the case of the unmarried with no dependents this means loss or suffering, but it is different with the married man. His absence cannot much reduce the expenses of the home, and therefore some more substantial Government allowance to the families or dependents would possibly meet the case, and why should means for this not be found, at any rate partly, in a tax levied on those who for various reasons do not serve?

Inquiries were made as to men losing their places through having to go away for training; isolated cases may have occurred, but the unanimous feeling is that these are too rare to be noticed and that public opinion is much too strong to allow such a thing. In engaging a man the question is often asked whether or not he is free of training, and one employer mentioned that there is no substantial increase in wages until this is completed. In advertising for a place a man will usually put in "free" or "not free" of service. It is from the farmers that the chief complaints would be expected. The training takes place in the summer, at the busiest time on a farm, but none of those spoken to admitted any real interference or loss. In some measure this may be due to the fact that Norwegian

farms as a whole are not large and that the women do a good deal of work in the harvest. Also in most cases a farmer is the owner of his farm, and in addition has an area of forest, which is a valuable asset. There is apparently no lack of labour available in the country to take the place of those away on training, and a little mutual assistance between neighbours practically removes any slight interference existing.

2. The excellent effect of the open air training and regular life on the physique and health of all, especially those engaged in entirely indoor and sedentary occupations. One case particularly commends itself—that of a business man, whom his partner asserted the open-air training had saved from consumption. Many men in Christiania, it is said, have through the training acquired the habit of going into the country for healthy fresh air exercise during the week-ends instead of as before loafing about the town. Reference has already been made to the question of holidays. One person gave it as his opinion that the training is the best sort of holiday possible, while another stated that he had never had a better. All, even in cases where they had not particularly liked it, admitted how much better physically they felt. Of course this physical advantage is not felt to the same extent in the country districts, and as the majority of the population in Norway are agricultural the general advantage in this line would be far greater in England.

3. The national advantage of the short common life in barracks or camp. No discrimination is made, the same treatment is meted out to everybody, men of different education and habits do their training side by side, getting the same ration and sharing the same barrack-room or tent. The Norwegians set a good deal of value on this and consider that the influence of the patriotic and educated is thereby more widely spread. There can be little doubt that such a life, short though it is, tends to remove much of the mistrust and misunderstanding between different classes and sections which, where it exists, must constitute a barrier to national union.

Apparently no difficulty is made to friends being together in the same barrack-room, and this can generally be arranged. If obstacles presented themselves from the rather different conditions of society in England, a solution could possibly be found in a moderate educational test for some of the higher branches of the service, such as cavalry, artillery, or engineers. This would result in men of similar inclinations being brought together, and would be an advantage to the general efficiency.

4. That no traces of jingoism or militarism exist in the country. The general feeling is that a system of universal service prevents both these evils, especially as regards the latter, where, as in Norway, the officers come from all sections of the people. An example of the absence of jingoism in a national crisis has been already given.

5. That there is no real opposition to the service. The only opponents consist of the Socialists and a few religious objectors. The views of the former are as yet a little incoherent,

but their numbers are increasing and they are inclined to adopt the principles of the French anti-militarists. Endeavours are made to influence the Army by the distribution of seditious literature at the various training centres. Interesting conversations took place with one of the leaders of the Socialist party in Norway and with a journalist who had himself done his service as an officer and held advanced Socialistic views. The former readily confessed to anti-militarism, but defended it on the rather peculiar grounds that any attempt at self-defence by a small country such as Norway is useless. At the same time his opinion was most emphatic that of all military systems universal service is the best, as being absolutely fair to everyone and not admitting of any exceptions. The journalist agreed with the principle of universal liability for national defence, but considered that every man should be allowed, if he wished, to serve the country in other ways in which his talents might lie to a greater extent than in a military line. The tendency of the Army authorities to enlarge on the duty of national defence he thought dangerous, as possibly resulting in militarism. The men, he said, should be paid their wages by the Government, as at present the poor in this way suffer by the training while the rich do not. No use should be made of a citizen force in civil disturbances, *e.g.*, strikes, and officers should be elected by the districts. He admitted that many workmen regarded the training as a holiday, but contended that it represented to the country a loss in wages similar to that alleged by the Press in time of a strike.

Those who object on religious grounds are very few, and in some cases are humoured by being given work of a peaceful nature in the arsenal or elsewhere. No organised opposition or definite opposing party exists in the whole country, and the attitude of the people in the northern or Tromsø district may be taken as a proof of this. In this district the obligation to service was not introduced until 1898; at present it is only for one year, but will later be extended to coincide with the other districts. So far from any objection being felt to its introduction, the people were anxious for it. They felt as capable as their countrymen in the south of taking their share in national defence, and their non-inclusion was a source of resentment rather than gratification. No complaints were heard after the extension was made, not even in 1905, nor have there been any signs of interference with ordinary avocations.

6. That the performance of this service is a valuable means of national education. It is agreed that the men after their service are more useful. They have learnt discipline, which is recognised to be just as necessary in civil life; they are handier and, especially in the cases of agricultural labourers, their intellects are brightened and capacity increased. Were it not for their service a great number of the latter would never leave their native villages and would gain no knowledge of the outer world. Its effect, too, is most valuable on those who will not work—not the *bona-fide* unemployed. In a system of

universal service these men are compelled to do a certain definite real work, and this, coupled with being brought into closer contact with the industrious majority, must have a generally good result.

Some fears have been expressed that universal service prevents colonisation. If an example may be taken from Norwegian emigration, this is certainly not the case; in fact, so much the contrary that a league has been started to prevent emigration, which has reached the high figure of 28,000 in one year. This migration is mostly to America in search of higher wages. Exhaustive enquiries have been made as to whether the service has any influence on this, but there is conclusive opinion to the contrary; and in support of this it may be stated that in 1905 a very large number of Norwegians resident abroad offered to return to help in the defence of the country.

No traces could be found of any manufactures or businesses employing labour having left Norway for countries such as England or America, where the national obligation does not exist. On the contrary, some English firms are said to have established industrial operations in the north, which seems to indicate that universal service is perhaps a lesser interference than local taxation in certain districts of England. The attitude of women of all classes is in every way favourable to the service; in fact, a man who has been rejected is thought rather less of. Instead of the ignorant lamentation, to which we are accustomed, a mother recognises the advantage of the training and is proud that her son should take his share in defending his country. To contend that in every case the service is popular would be incorrect, but there is a remarkable unanimity even among the less educated in recognising its necessity. Among the older and more intelligent, and especially among those engaged in indoor occupations, there is also a very ready acknowledgment of its advantage. The general conclusion is that when once established and in working order a system of universal service such as the Norwegian is not detrimental to trade or professional and commercial life generally. On the other hand, it confers many real advantages both individual and national. It is, of course, useless to pretend that it does not exact a certain measure of self-sacrifice from the civil population as a whole, and, as would be expected, this may be more in some cases than in others. Even if with the present standard of commercial patriotism in England, anything short of a national calamity will allow of the introduction of universal service, it is probable that until the nation has adapted itself to the change the inconvenience will be more than is at present felt in Norway, and is certain to be exaggerated by opponents. On closer acquaintance with such a system it cannot but appear as amazing that the calculating man of business in England does not recognise in it a very light premium for complete insurance against a calamity, which would probably result in commercial ruin and which, to use Mr. Coulton's words, no sudden panic-bred effort can avert.

NORWEGIAN MILITARY SYSTEM. Table A—Showing Periods of Service and Training.

{ General Liability for defence of country in Landstorm Reserve } from 18 to 50 years of age.																	
{ Service and Training in three levies commencing with Recruit Training at } 23 years old and concluding at 39 years old.																	
Line >< Landvarn >< Landstorm >																	
ARM.	1st Year	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	Total Training in Days.
Cavalry	102	24	24	...	...	...	Repetition. 24 in one of these years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Artillery	92	24	24	...	...	...	24 in one of these years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Fortress Artillery	48	24	24	24	...	...	24 in one of these years		(No Landvarn Levy in this Arm)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
Mountain Artillery	60	24	24	...	...	...	24 in one of these years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Engineers	72	24	24	...	...	...	24 in one of these years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
Infantry	48	24	24	...	...	...	24 in one of these years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Train (Large)	...	100 Days complete	24	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
" (Small)	18	24	24	...	...	...	24 in one of these years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Supply Corps	48	24	24	...	...	...	24 in one of these years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Medical Corps	48	24	24	...	...	...	24 in one of these years		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144

Men are also liable for duty as grooms at the Riding School.

All or some of the men trained in this course are available for mobilization in the N.O.O.'s and the Large Train on Mobilization.

Includes Physical Defectives.

Men are also liable for duty as grooms at the Riding School.

All or some of the men trained in this course may become Q.O.'s in Landstorm Train on Mobilisation.

Includes Physical Defectives.

N.B.—This Table shows Service Liability for all ranks and Training for men.

TABLE B.

Showing Service and Training of Varnepligtige (or Militia) Officers and Non-commissioned Officers.

Varnepligtige Sergeants.	Preliminary.	School.	Line.	Landværn.
Cavalry ... Fortress Art. Infantry ...	Recruit and Regimental course, according to Arm. (See Table A.)	3 years' school course.	1 or 2 Repetition courses of 24 days.	24 days.
Engineers ... Artillery ...	Recruit and Regimental course, according to Arm. (See Table A.)	4 years' course.	1 or 2 Repetition courses of 24 days.	24 days.
Varnepligtige Officers. All Arms	Recruit and Regimental course, according to Arm. (See Table A.)	1 year War School.	1 Recruit and Regimental course as Officers and further liability for 5 Repetition courses.	Liability for 2 Repetition courses of 24 days each.

APPENDIX A.

Particulars as to absences of employees on military service from various firms:—

Roros Copper Mines and Works.

Trondhjem, 30th September, 1907.

	1906	1907
Number of men employed	665	685
Number of men away on recruit courses ...	21	15
Number of days on which men were away on recruit courses	1511	866
Number of men away on repetition courses ...	24	63
Number of days on which men were away on repetition courses	686	1890
Number of substitutes found necessary to employ	17	25

The following comprise the men employed at the saw and planing mills and also the farms belonging to Mr. Anders Sveaas, British Vice-Consul at Drammen, Norway:—

Number of men employed: 160.

	1906	1907
Number of men away on recruit training ...	2	1
Total number of days on which men were away on recruit drill	74	74
(Inclusive of 2 days travelling.)		
Number of men away on repetition courses ...	6	7
Total number of days on which men were away on repetition courses	26	26
(Inclusive of 2 days travelling.)		
Number of substitutes whom it was found necessary to employ, instead	8	8

Some further information in the following letter was obtained from Mr. Sveaas as to the employment of substitutes:

“Drammen, 9th September, 1907.

“DEAR SIR,—Replying to yours of yesterday's date, I have much pleasure in informing you that when any of our *skilled* labourers are away on military service their posts are usually filled by some of my own men, who understand and who have occasionally before done the work.

“It is always necessary, however, to have the *full number* of men to work at my mills, and consequently the vacancies have to be filled in one way or other. Of course, when the men come back they are replaced in their former posts.

“It is therefore quite correct, when in my report I gave the number of men engaged in place of those away as 8 (eight).

“In case of any of the yard-labourers being away their places must, *when necessary*, be filled by quite new men.

“With kind regards, I am, dear sir, yours very truly,

“ANDERS SVEAAS.”

J. Tostrup, Goldsmith, Christiania.

	1906	1907
Number of men employed	82	88
Number of men away on recruit training ...	1	1
Total number of days on which men were away on recruit drill	64	67
Number of men away on repetition courses ...	1	4
Total number of days on which men were away on repetition courses	24	96
Number of substitutes which it was found neces- sary to employ	0	0

The percentage of absences for the above is:—

1906	...	...	...	...	6
1907	...	...	...	...	10

APPENDIX B.

PHYSICAL STATISTICS, 1905.

In the twenty southern recruiting districts the total number of men examined was 11,464.

Of these:—

7,412, or 64.6 per cent., were fit for the Line.

1,099, or 9.6 per cent., were fit for the Transport Corps.

180, or 1.6 per cent., were postponed for temporary disablement.

2,773, or 24.2 per cent., were rejected as totally unfit.

In the four northern recruiting districts the percentage fit for the Line was 72.5 and those rejected 16.4.

The average height among those who reached or exceeded the standard (5 ft. 2 1-5 in.) was about 5 ft. 8 in. in the southern districts while in the north in one district it fell to about 5 ft. 6½ in.

The principal cause of rejection was injury to the arms or legs, while the highest percentage of rejection for height under the standard of 5 ft. 2 1-5 in. was only .4 in the southern districts and 1.1 in the northern.

In 1878 to 1882 the average percentage fit for the Line was 52. This, as well as the average height in the battalions, has risen considerably.

T. MILLER MAGUIRE, M.A., LL.D. (Barrister-at-Law, Inner Temple): —During the course of the most interesting and instructive lecture to which we have just listened; I contemplated the large map of Europe on the wall, and the lecturer brought back to my memory the time when the Norse or Northmen sallied forth from their fiords in open craft not the length of this room and carried horror to all the coasts of Europe. Norwegians are now organising themselves to prevent invasion, and the Baltic strategy in regard to the Aland Isles and Russia is being again discussed. But time was when Northmen were invaders or powerful allies of other States. They helped the Greek Emperors to hold out in Constantinople against the followers of the Prophet; they ruled in Sicily; they annexed a large portion of the realms of our present ally, France; they harried England. A descendant of a Northman pirate now occupies our throne; nor did they forget Scotland and Ireland, spreading terror far and wide. That we should now be discussing their military system by way of example is a strange illustration of what Bacon calls the "Vicissitudes of Things," i.e., the ebb and flow of races, the action and reaction of Time and Fate, of Progress and Decay in the communities of men. The Norwegians, now again separated from the other Scandinavian States, seem determined to maintain their independence by the only means ever known to history, that is, by securing a "race of military men." They can no longer found great kingdoms in other lands, but they can prevent other races from annexing their hills and dales and lakes. A study of the history of Scandinavians, from whom many men in this room are descended—as their names tell us—would be a good warning to a sea Power that we want soldiers as well as sailors; but history is the last thing that

interests a generation of game players. You will not wish me to occupy much time in details, so I will spend my few minutes in comments on the last paragraphs of the lecture as a summary of the general principles. Mr. Lewis contends that military training confers great benefits on individuals, and hence on the race. Well, it is my duty to spend at least half my leisure among the poor. If you don't elevate and improve the conditions of our people, so that our men of the future will be fit to bear arms, and that England will become again *terra potens armis et ubere glebae*; if there be not also a strong and self-reliant generation of women fit for the duties of maternity, the race will perish. Riches, arms, ships, fortresses, are only sheep in lion's skins without men. Our boasted civilisation is a farce, a lie; Pathan civilisation, Zulu civilisation is better than ours, if the result be sound men and competent women. No philosophical cant, no political devices, no Territorial Army force will save you. Strong armed men trained to fight if need be, and they alone will save you. Hordes of yelling fools cheering hirelings kicking balls won't save you! Spending £15,000,000 a year and neglecting your children every holiday and week-end for idiotic golf won't save you. Following the Norwegian example may save you. As for the "sacrifice"—what sacrifice? Not forty days a year from spectacular shows and loafing, billiards and bridge, for healthy exercise in the open air! Sacrifice! Not half the sacrifice offered up to shooting or games or hunting. Why, the old Norsemen would laugh at the sacrifices as a mere trifle, not worth a Saga song; and yet our luxurious, loafing race must fly to territorial sophists to avoid such a sacrifice as a few weeks a year for five years! I was a very busy man indeed, and yet I was able to be a private, a non-commissioned officer, and an officer and pass all my examinations with the Guards and otherwise, and do twice as much drill as is suggested for 15 years, and I felt it no sacrifice; it was a most profitable pleasure, and the expenditure was very well spent money in every way. We must make much greater sacrifices, as much as Japanese Bushido folk, or lose our Empire. Mr. Haldane and his friends boast that they have buried "buried conscription deep." I hope not; but here is a fact. I ask Mr. Shee behind me, am I wrong when I say that the majority of the active members of the County Associations who are now at work are members and subscribers to the National Service League, *i.e.*, agitators for Universal Obligatory Service?

Mr. SHEE :—"Quite true."

Dr. MAGUIRE :—"Quite true! of course! A nice way to bury conscription by calling in the prophets of Obligatory Service to keep the territorial bantling alive. Now let us have the Oracles of Time! Not one nation in the whole history of mankind was able to preserve itself in a crisis without obligatory military service—not one. Will anyone contradict me? Greece, Rome, England in the time of Crecy and Agincourt?—obligatory service or ruin. England in the time of the Tudors, when men were punished if they neglected drill for "lewd games of ball"? England in the days of Marlborough. Meeting with reverses in the beginning of the Seven Years' War (1756), the British adopted Universal Military Service and Ballot for the Militia? When fighting Napoleon before Trafalgar and after Trafalgar, far-reaching obligatory service prevailed in our land—obligatory service of the cruellest and worst kind for the Navy. Conscription for the Regulars by the Additional Force Bill, and by the Military Service Bill, of 1803, every citizen had one of four choices, to wit: service

in the Regulars, service in the Militia, service in the Volunteers—or gaol. I have had much experience of Volunteers and very little of gaol, but I prefer the Volunteers. Don't listen any more to twaddle, don't listen to Metaphysicians, spurn party sophists, study patriotism. Humanitarian philosophy is arrant rubbish. Be true to yourselves, to your traditions, hearken to lectures like that of Mr. Lewis, take the advice of the wise men of all ages and countries, avoid temporising compromises. Stand erect, "pride in your port, defiance in your eye"—thus only will you win the admiration of other races and "sow greatness to your own posterity."

Mr. GEORGE SHEE :—I think it is an extremely valuable thing that we have had this lecture this afternoon, following so close upon Colonel Delmé Radcliffe's lecture not long ago on the Swiss Militia System, for we have now placed before this Institution two admirable papers, giving clear surveys of the two great Militia systems of the world, two systems in existence in democratic communities, one of which is very largely industrial, and the other becoming increasingly so. I think the question is all the more important in view of the fact, first, that we are about to embark upon this doubtful experiment of a voluntary Territorial Army; and, secondly, in view of the fact that at precisely the same moment when we are going to make this attempt our Australian kinsmen are going to give us a very different example. At the very same moment that we are going to try to perpetuate our clinging to the obsolete fetish of the voluntary system for home defence, our Australian kinsmen have awakened to the fact that compulsory military training alone will give them a sufficient and efficient system of national defence; and Mr. Deakin has put forward proposals, which will come formally before the Commonwealth Parliament next month, for compulsory military training in Australia. It is, therefore, extremely important that we should be made acquainted with the Militia systems as they at present exist in these two great democratic communities of Switzerland and Norway. I have drawn up a table, which I hope to publish shortly,¹ giving the periods of training, the number that are forthcoming for training, and the cost of the various systems of compulsory military training (as distinct from military service) in Norway, Switzerland, and Australia, and under the system proposed by the Duke of Norfolk's Commission—so quickly forgotten by our people—and, finally, the system proposed for the present Auxiliary Forces in the Territorial Army. I will not give you these facts now, but the comparison is extremely interesting in this way, that it shows that this system of compulsory training is an economic and efficient system of military service. It is only by the adoption of compulsion that you can get sufficient and efficient men trained at a reasonable cost. The point to which I should like to draw special attention this afternoon is the question of interference with labour and employment. At the present moment, even with the very slight hint of obligation for national defence which is contained in the what I call vague outlines of the Territorial Army at home, even in spite of the slightness of that hint we have an outcry in many directions on the part of employers of labour to the effect that it will not do at all, that they cannot let their men go, and trade and employment must not be interfered with. Now, I want to give you the result of four important investigations which have been made on behalf of the National Service

¹ It appears in the March issue of "The Nation in Arms," the Journal of the National Service League.—G.F.S.

League. During this last summer, a large employer of labour gave up many weeks of his time to an investigation of the number of youths of 18 who would be interfered with by a system of compulsory military training of three or four months in the first year, followed by a fortnight in the next three years. He enquired into the number of men of that age in the labour market who would be interfered with by that system, and he found it worked out to exactly 2.5 per cent. Shortly after, and quite independently, another employer of labour in a very important manufacturing city in the North (Bolton), carried out an investigation in fourteen large works of different kinds, as to the number of youths of eighteen who would be liable, supposing universal military service were to come into force to-morrow, and he found that the number would be about 3.1. At the same time I communicated with all the largest firms in Switzerland, following up our interesting investigations of last year, and I asked them what was the percentage of men who were called out normally for their recruit training—that is, the chief training every year—and I found from the following firms, most of which are known to you by name, that they worked out at precisely 2.2 per cent., namely, Sulzer Bros., the great machine works; Suchard, at Neuchatel, the great chocolate manufacturers; the Machine Works at Oerlikon; Nestlé & Co., the milk people; Peter & Kohler; Berne Alpenmilch; Bell & Co.; and the Swiss Locomotive Works. I also got my friend Mr. Lewis to make similar investigations in Norway, and they work out at a percentage of 3.1. What does this mean? It means that if this terrible system of universal military training were to come into force to-morrow, the whole amount of the sacrifice which would be incurred by our manufacturers would be that, for the short space of three or four months in one year, at the utmost probably 3.1 per cent. of their men would be taken away for a training which would return them to the works infinitely improved in physique, in *moral*, in discipline, in cleanliness, and punctuality; in fact, better men, better citizens, and better workmen. And yet these are sacrifices which we are told are far too great to ask from the British people! I ask who are the people who would suffer most in time of war? The attitude of the employer of labour is a most extraordinary one. One would think that the proposal for a system of military training for the defence of the country was a thing suggested for the pleasure of the Government or for the pleasure of officers who are going to lead the men, and not for the sake of national defence at all! But I ask again, Who would suffer most in case of a disastrous war? Why, it is those very employers of labour; it is the great merchants and manufacturers. At the present moment we have the extraordinary spectacle of one of the wealthiest manufacturers in the North of England imploring the Government to reduce the expenditure on the Navy. I should like to know what would happen to the argosies that are carrying our immense trade all over the world under the protection of the British flag if our Navy were to meet with a disaster through the weakness of any Government yielding to such absurd and fatuous demands? It really comes to this, that we seem to have arrived at a stage in our civilisation when money and the making of money in trade and commerce are the only ideals which stir the enthusiasm of a large number of our people—the question of the defence of the honour of this country seems to be lost sight of. As a gentleman very well said not long ago (a commanding officer of Volunteers), with reference to this question of employers objecting to their men being taken to defend their country: "The sooner the employers of labour are obliged to learn the defence of their country under compulsory military training, the better for them and the country."

I wish to draw attention to the point which the lecturer made so well, that the system is not regarded in Norway as a hardship or as any great sacrifice by the vast majority of the people of the country. Do let us remember, when we talk about the tyranny and the slavery of any system of compulsion, that it is precisely in the most democratic of nations in the world where that system is carried out in its most complete form. There is no country where the system is more complete than in Switzerland, where it receives the most enthusiastic support of the whole of the people. I have just translated the Swiss Military Law of last year, and it is interesting, when one knows the extraordinary devotion to personal liberty that the Swiss have, to read the drastic enactments which the law lays down for the time of war and for preparation during peace, so that everything, *matériel* or *personnel*, in the country shall be at the disposal of the country. Horses, mules, wagons, and everything must be placed at the disposal of the Commanding General once war has come about. I only wish that, instead of trying to truckle and pander to this excessive admiration and adoration of the purely voluntary system, our Ministers would have the courage to make the appeal of plain duty to the British public, for if they would I am perfectly convinced they would get the same reply that the other great free democratic nations willingly give when the safety of their country is at stake.

Colonel Lord RAGLAN, C.B., Royal Mon. R.E. (Mil.) :—I had not come here prepared to say anything this afternoon, but I should like to say a word on the point that Mr. Shee made with regard to the immense advantage the physique of the nation must derive from compulsory service. I would like to ask everybody here to go and see this year—because after this year they will never be able to see it again—the men when they go up to the Militia regiment for training and when they come down after their training. I have the honour to command one of the strongest Militia regiments in the country. The men consist almost entirely of miners, iron workers, and artisans of that description. Those men look upon this training as their annual cure; it sets them up for work for the year, and they thoroughly enjoy it. You cannot expect for a moment that that class of men will give up the wages they earn for the pay they receive as Militiamen unless they do thoroughly enjoy it. I am anxious that the country should clearly understand what Mr. Haldane's proposals mean; they mean the absolute abolition of the Militia—the force must entirely disappear. The way in which it has been put before the country has been very cleverly worked, and my own firm conviction is that it has never from the first been intended to train those men at all. They will do their six months as recruits, and never again will those men be called up for annual training. I do think it is a very serious thing indeed that ninety thousand or a hundred thousand men who have served in the Militia are to be deprived for ever of the opportunity of restoring their health and maintaining their physique which the military training gives them. This great Government, which always poses as the friend of the working classes, will deprive a hundred thousand working men of the money they receive from serving in the Militia. I trust the country will see that before it is too late; but I am afraid the country will not see it until it is too late.

Captain A. H. TRAPMANN, 26th Middlesex R.V. (Cyclists) :—I did not come prepared to make a speech, but two or three things that have been said in the course of the very interesting lecture and the discussion that has followed have brought into my mind a few remarks I would like to make. I desire to say a few words on the question of the responsibility of the

employers of labour towards the Government and towards the defenders of the country. The large employer of labour is very much in the same position to-day as in the old feudal times the nobles were. In old feudal times it was the noble who had to provide a certain number of men and horses in case of war or incursions by the enemy. In these days we merely tax the employer of labour. We ask him to pay for the men, but we do not ask him to provide the men. Unfortunately men are not forthcoming, and in every system short of compulsion it means that the recruiting problem in a more or less urgent form is before us. I have had a certain amount of experience of recruiting for the Volunteer force, and I know a good deal of the difficulties. The chief difficulty I have encountered has been, curiously enough, not so much with the men as with the women. I think that if the women of this country, instead of agitating for the things they are asking for, would give a little of their spare time and energy to urging their mankind to take a part in the defence of their country, it would be for the public good; more especially in these days when young men of the great middle class get engaged at twenty, and go on remaining engaged for the next ten years. If we could induce the young women of this country to rub it into the young men whom they walk out with, or to whom they are engaged, and whom sometimes they may or may not marry, that to be a defender of his country is far better than taking her on Saturday afternoons to a football match, it would help recruiting under the existing circumstances or under the circumstances of the new Territorial Army. There is another point on which I should like to say a word. One hears on all sides everybody saying: "Why do not we have compulsory universal service introduced in some form or other?" It has never, so far as I know, been put to the nation at large whether we should or should not. One curious thing about it is that whatever Party in Parliament is in power, the great majority of the members of the Government would be men who themselves would not be obliged to submit to compulsory service on account of their age; in fact, it is the older men who make laws for the younger men to obey. As far as my experience goes in endeavouring to obtain recruits, and in speaking with many friends who try to do the same thing, I find the young men are very willing to obey, but the difficulty is in getting decent laws made for them to obey. There is one point the lecturer made with which I do not entirely agree. He pointed out that in a nation which consists practically of men who are either soldiers or who have done service, or who will be called upon to defend their country in case of war, there is not that same jingo spirit, there is not that same ambition found as in a nation which knows nothing about war. I was in Spain at the time of the war between that country and the United States, and I was in France at the time of the Fashoda crisis. I have seen a good deal of sentiment in that way, and nothing that I have seen leads me to believe that that argument is correct. What I saw in France and in Spain was that the younger men—the men first to be called upon—were the men keen to go out. It was the older men, who were set in business, and who were only thinking of making money who were against the war, because naturally they would be the losers. I think it is rather natural that a man should want to do the thing that he is good at. If he has been taught to be a soldier, he has presumably been taught to be a good soldier, and it is only natural, therefore, that, if there is a chance of proving himself one, he would like to take it. Though the argument that I am putting forward may seem to militate to a certain extent against universal service, I think, on the other hand, the vast governing majority of the nation will always be the men who have

commercial interests. Therefore, I think that argument would not in any way affect the jingo spirit or the desire to go into unnecessary conflicts.

Major-General C. F. GREGORIE, C.B. :—I quite agree with Dr. Miller Maguire, that it is the pride and pleasure of the hardy Norwegian race to provide for the defence of their country. What can be grander patriotism than that? I am very glad to hear from Mr. Shee that the Australians see their danger and are providing against it. I very much fear that our people do not see and will not see it, although the danger is present before their eyes. Immediately a crisis arises they will have to meet it as on former occasions, as best they can, under extraordinary pressure, great difficulty, and very considerable risk of being too late.

The CHAIRMAN (Major-General Sir T. Fraser) :—I am sure you will all authorise me, on your behalf, to thank Lieutenant Lewis for the very interesting lecture he has given us. He is a young officer who belongs to a very good Yeomanry regiment, which was in my command for some years. It is very creditable to him to have gone afield to have obtained the valuable information that he brings us from Norway. I gather from the paper that under the circumstances detailed, the infantry, which is the main body of every army, will, on the occurrence of war in Norway, have done a mean of about 75 days' training under well-educated professional officers and non-commissioned officers. There are other questions to be remembered, but substantially only 75 days is what the Norwegians assign to the training of their infantry before war commences. That, I need not say, is absolutely and entirely insufficient if their army were opposed to the troops of the great armies of Continental Europe. On the other hand, Norway is a mediatised State. Four Powers, ourselves among them, have guaranteed the integrity of Norway, and she is therefore in a position to deal in a very light-hearted manner with the training of her troops. But now I want to touch on a broader issue: the armies of the world. In Continental Europe all the great military Powers have substantially based their armies on conscription, and on German lines of organisation; and the Japanese have done the same. There are many minor Powers in Europe, and nearly the whole of them, with two exceptions, have conscript armies. The minor Powers, according to the amount of security they get from their neighbours and from the ambitions and jealousies of their neighbours, think, without having tried the experiment in war, that they can do with much less training than the great Powers. For instance, we find that Sweden is to give only a year's preliminary training with professional officers; Switzerland—also a mediatised State—does only thirteen weeks' training, with relatively untrained officers, before war commences; and so on. There are only two of these small States of Europe that have a different system, namely Belgium and the Netherlands. They each have a long-service army (eight years), and they have subsidiary training; but the armies are voluntary armies fortified by conscription. In South America conscription is applied. In the United States they have no such thing as national training, although the law of the land of the United States is that the sixteen million men, who are fit, are liable to be called upon to serve in defence of their country if and when necessary. They are not trained, and therefore they are a negligible quantity till they are; but the principle is recognised. Mr. Deakin, in Australia, is bringing a Bill before the Federal Council to introduce universal compulsory service. This, substantially, covers the whole of the most civilised peoples of the world. In this country we are in the unique position of having absolutely and entirely voluntary armies. Till lately, as Lord Raglan has told you, we had behind us the Militia Ballot Act. That, of course, is not

absolutely a part of the Militia system, but it was connected with it, and as the Militia is now about to be absorbed into the Line, substantially the bare principle of compulsion is likely to die out in this country.

Lord RAGLAN :—I believe, as a matter of fact, they do not propose to abolish the Ballot Act; they propose to abolish the Militia.

The CHAIRMAN :—At any rate, I think we may say that we are now absolutely on a voluntary basis. We have now got a Territorial Army, in connection with which Mr. Haldane has honestly tried to get the best information he can. He has gone about the country in a way which shows that he is very deeply anxious to get at the truth. But, from his own showing, the voluntary system of the Territorial Army can apparently only give us a mean service of a fortnight's field training, in addition to some fifty hours in the drill-halls, before war occurs. It may quite well happen that, in the absence of the Regular Army—as occurred lately—it may be necessary to defend this country against invasion with a Territorial Army which, when war commences, will only on the average have done a fortnight's military field training. Few will deny that that amount of training—by far the least that any country in the world, however protected by others, attempts to rely on—is absolutely insufficient, and far less than even mediatised States, which will be defended by others, think necessary; but it is the best we can do under the system. Because men, in the struggle for industrial and commercial existence, cannot on the average afford to neglect their business for a longer time each year when other men will not neglect their business at all; that, apart from the financial question, is the secret of the whole thing. The fault of the system is this, that a certain number of patriotic men—the best of their race—make sacrifices that handicap them in the labour or commercial struggle; consequently the best men in the country would go to the wall by degrees. That is the effect of the voluntary system for home defence. I for one would gladly welcome a voluntary system if it gave us the certainty of security. But it is plain it cannot. The alternative is universal compulsory service, which, of course, has difficulties of its own. You may call it national service, but it is substantially conscription. The effect of conscription is that all men are ruled out of work for at least two years, or whatever be the appointed time, and from the competition of life. They all start equally at the end, and consequently no man gets an advantage over his neighbour. Our Regular Army for service abroad must, apparently, be a voluntary and relatively well-paid service; but my own belief is that no great nation can in the future exist except under universal compulsory service for home defence; and the training must be such as to enable men to face the other great Powers whom they may have to meet in war, and who at present never give less than two years' training to the infantry, and in some cases three and more years. I think the whole subject, looked at in its broadest lines, points to the fact that we cannot, however honestly we try to do it, get a Territorial Army at home that would be fit to face the great armies of Europe, unless it be under such a system; and that instead of the inevitable great cost of paid voluntary service in an *effectively* trained Territorial Army, the whole community, as it comes to man's estate, should secure by *personal sacrifice*, the numbers and training to guarantee the safety that our available men and revenues may be unequal to provide for otherwise. The choice lies with the community as a whole. They are the arbiters of their own national existence. I again thank the lecturer for having brought this interesting section of the subject so clearly before your notice.