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# THE RAISING OF THE NATIONAL RESERVE IN A COUNTRY DISTRICT.

By LIEUT.-COLONEL G. LE M. GRETTON,  
late 3rd Battalion Liecestershire Regiment.

On Wednesday, 7th February, 1912.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR E. R. ELLES, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., in the Chair.

ANYONE who has come here expecting to hear a lecture in finished sentences and polished periods will be grievously disappointed. I am not an orator, and for the last few months I have been speaking to audiences of old soldiers who cared nothing for words, but wanted the objects of the National Reserve explained to them in the plainest of plain English. Therefore if I appear very colloquial, I apologise once and for all, and plunge at once into my subject.

## **The National Reserve is a Military Directory.**

Before discussing the way of raising the National Reserve in a country district, let me very shortly describe the objects of the organization. Every year many thousands of highly trained soldiers leave the Colours to pass into the Army Reserve, and in a short time are free of the Army altogether, while a considerable number of men buy their discharges and in like manner become free from further military obligations. In the same way, a large number of Special Reservists, Yeomen, and Territorials of all branches leave the Service every year, and by the extraordinary system hitherto in force, these men, many of whom are the most highly trained soldiers in Europe, have been allowed to pass into civil life without any sort of record being kept of their addresses or their movements. To remedy this state of things the National Reserve has been called into existence. The chief object of the National Reserve is to form a register of the names and addresses of ex-soldiers and sailors, in order that in the case of a national emergency, such as a threatened invasion, Government would be able to write to them, and invite them to turn out for the defence of the country. It is always impressed upon the men that they must clearly understand that by registering their names and joining the National Reserve they undertake no sort of liability for service in any capacity whatever. They simply hand in their names and addresses to be kept in a book for future reference. They

give the War Office no hold upon them. All that the Government can do is to let them know that the country is in a "tight place," and to ask them if they are prepared to turn out to take their share in the defence of England. But if they are unable or unwilling to do so they cannot be compelled to turn out. That is the main point of the National Reserve as it stands at present—to get hold of the names and addresses of men who have served a certain number of years in the Army or the auxiliary forces—(to use the old fashioned term for the unprofessional branches of the Army), so that the Government shall know where to write to them and invite them to take up arms if an emergency arises. Subsidiary to this, but still important, is the wish of the originators of the scheme to bring the ex-soldiers of all arms and branches of the Army together; to promote good feeling and *esprit d'armée* among them, and to show them that their past services have not been forgotten altogether. In pursuance of this policy there is no limit to the age to which men may remain on the roll of the National Reserve. Years after they have become too old to be of any use, either in the field or in any other capacity, they may continue to be members. In fact, they may remain on to the very day of their death, not as effectives, but as honorary members; and I find that the old men, who join simply as honorary members, are very much gratified by the knowledge that they are still in some way connected with the Army. Later on I shall go into the figures and show the enormous number of trained men there are scattered about the country; but before I go into those figures (which, I may observe, I shall cut as short as possible, because statistics are very dull!) I should like to point out that there are a great many worthy people, fellow countrymen of ours, who, knowing nothing of war, consider that this business of registration, of collecting men's names and addresses, is perfect nonsense, and that all that is needed in an emergency is to rely on the spirit of the country. In point of fact, they think that Lord Haldane, or whoever the Secretary of State for War may be, would only have to stamp with his foot on the ground, like Pompey, and "armed legions would dart from the soil"—that he would be able to call upon an enormous supply of trained, organized, and disciplined men. That is a beautiful fallacy! Imagine a mass of well-intentioned citizens all darting up at the same time, clamouring for arms, clamouring for equipment, clamouring to know where they are to go and what they are to do. Why, the chaos at the beginning of the South African War would be order compared with such a state of things! All that we wish to do is to register the names, so that if the War Office or the Government make adequate preparations beforehand for the organization of all the material we are collecting, the National Reserve shall be used, not as fresh legions, but as reinforcements for those troops detailed for the defence of the United Kingdom.

### Origin of the National Reserve.

The idea of forming retired soldiers of all branches of the Service into a reserve of veterans was originated some years ago by Mr. St. Loe Strachey and a band of his patriotic friends in Surrey.<sup>1</sup> Up to the last moment I had hoped that Mr. St. Loe Strachey would have been here to-day to speak about the inception of this great movement, but fortunately for us our Chairman, General Sir Edmund Elles, was working hand in hand with him at the time, and he will no doubt be able to give us a very valuable retrospect of what was then done. The idea caught on so well in Surrey that (I think) in 1910 a parade of Surrey veterans was held, at which Lord Roberts, Lord Haldane, and a number of other distinguished personages were present. They were so much impressed by the potential value of these ex-soldiers that the Government authorized the formation of a reserve, to be called the Veteran Reserve, a name which has now been changed to the National Reserve, and the movement, as far as it is known and understood in Great Britain, is beginning to make headway.

The figures that I am now going to give you will show what has been done up to the present, but I think when you consider what the population of great Britain is, you will say that the results are not by any means remarkable; not because there is the slightest want of spirit on the part of the men who are eligible to join, but simply because the question has not been put before them clearly and intelligibly. Thanks to the courtesy of the Secretaries of the Territorial Force Associations, the bodies entrusted by Government with the raising of the National Reserve, I am able to put before you the figures which show the amount of registration done up to the 31st December, 1911. In England the number of officers and men who had given in their names was 59,336; in Scotland, 10,548; and in Wales 1,479, making a total of 71,363 men. I particularly wish to emphasize the fact that we know that at least 39,000 out of these 71,000, and probably a much larger number, are ex-Regular soldiers. Those of you who have the synopsis of the lecture in your hands will see that there is a note at the top of the appendix, explaining that a great many of the Territorial Associations did not send in their returns fully made up, so that it is impossible to say anything more definite than that 71,363 men have registered, but as I have already said, we know that at least 39,000, and probably many more of them, were ex-soldiers of the Regular Army.

To deal with England first; it appears that in round numbers the City of London and the County of London, which are working in co-operation, and the County of Middlesex have together registered rather more than 22,000 names, or nearly

<sup>1</sup> Since this lecture was delivered I have received a letter from Lieut.-Colonel Charles Ford, V.D., in which he states that in 1907 he originated this, or a similar scheme in London.—G. LE M.G.

one-third of the whole output of England, Scotland, and Wales. These figures ought to be considered with some degree of care, because they show how very little work has been done in most parts of the country. Surrey, of course, has done well, as she has 4,200 names on her list, and so has Kent, with 4,550. The counties in the South and West of England are also fairly satisfactory, but neither the capital nor any other English county can compare with Oxfordshire, which, with a population, according to Whitaker's Almanac, of 198,000 souls, has registered over 1,600 men, of whom 600 were ex-soldiers. If London and Middlesex together had done as well as Oxfordshire they would have turned out over 60,000 National Reservists. These figures are good; but here are some unsatisfactory ones. Lancashire, out of a population of 4,800,000, has only produced 5,500, of whom 1,300 or 1,400 have been raised by the energy of one Volunteer Officer in and around the town of Burnley, who has got 1,300 or 1,400 Reservists to his credit! The three Ridings of Yorkshire, with a combined population of four millions, only muster 229 Reservists; the 300,000 inhabitants of Berkshire are represented by 54 men; while Lincolnshire, with more than half a million people at its command, can only produce 37. It is perfectly obvious in those counties the work has not been done; that is the plain English of it. In Scotland, Edinburgh heads the list with the magnificent total of 4,600. The City and County of Aberdeen with 1,380, and Ayrshire with more than 1,230 names have both done well; but for the rest of North Britain the figures are disappointing, especially from Glasgow, where only 383 men have been found willing to register their names. The Welsh returns are so small that they are not worth discussing.

#### The Country not yet thoroughly interested.

From the details to be found in the appendix, it appears that, with the exception of a few towns and a few counties, the country at large has not yet properly appreciated the importance of the movement; and consequently the work of registration has not been properly taken in hand, but when public interest is roused there is no reason to doubt that the names registered will amount to hundreds of thousands, for the number of men scattered about the Kingdom who have been trained to arms in a greater or less degree is enormous. Take the Regular Army first. Ever since the introduction of the present system, by which a soldier enlists for so many years with the Colours and so many more in the Army Reserve, a vast number of thoroughly trained soldiers, many of them seasoned by experience in actual war, have passed through the ranks and then been lost sight of among the civilian population. The returns for the last eight years show that, excluding the men who, during their service in the Army Reserve, bought their discharges or were discharged for misconduct or bad health, no

smaller number than 92,000 men, or an average of about 11,600 have left the Army Reserve every year, not because they were no longer good, useful soldiers, but automatically, simply because their engagement had come to an end. The numbers of ex-Militia and ex-Yeomen are considerable, and those of the Volunteers are very remarkable. During the ten years ending 1907, when the Volunteers became Territorials, about 14,000 or 15,000 men took their discharges every year before they had completed three years' service; and during the same period 320,000 Volunteers, or an average of 32,000 a year, retired after serving for three years and upwards. Of those 320,000 men, about 64,000 had been in the Force for more than eight years, and were consequently respectably trained troops. Surely these figures prove that there is an enormous supply of trained and partially trained men to be had if people take the trouble to look for them and register their names. Though the returns from the Territorial Forces Associations are by no means complete in every respect, they show, as I have already said, that at least 39,000 out of the 71,000 men registered have served in the Regular Army, and it appears that more than 700 ex-Blue Jackets and Marines are on the roll of the National Reserve, and that 400 men who served in the Forces of the Oversea Dominions and Commonwealths have also joined. Roughly speaking, the Regular Services have found four-sevenths of the whole, while the output of the unprofessional part of the Army, that is to say, the old Militia, the Yeomanry, the Special Reserve, and the Territorials, only amount to three-sevenths, a result which cannot be considered as very creditable to the zeal and energy of the unprofessional branches of the Service.

#### Value of the National Reservists.

In discussing this subject in the country, I have often met specimens of that large class of worthy Britisher who know nothing about the Army, and whose idea of a veteran—an old soldier—is entirely derived from the old Chelsea pensioners whom they have seen toddling about the streets of London. These people say "What is the use of getting the names of all these old soldiers? What good would these old fellows be in war? How could they help to defend the country in case of invasion?" These objectors do not realise that the National Reserve is not composed of old and worn-out men, but that the majority of its members are in the prime of manhood—at least, such is my experience, and I have seen many of them. A large number are men who have recently passed out of the Army Reserve at the expiration of their 12 years engagement; they are splendid fellows; they are the most highly trained soldiers in Europe, and they possess an enormous advantage over any Continental troops in that a very large proportion of them have been shot over, numbers of them in more than one campaign. Their wits have been sharpened in the service, and they have returned

to civil life with a wider outlook than that of the average citizen; their health, if shaken by service in the tropics, has been restored when they have returned to their native air—in a word, these men are soldiers whom any regiment would be proud to receive, and any officer proud to command. So much for the old soldiers, the ex-Regulars.

The unprofessional soldiers, though obviously far from being as well trained and as well disciplined as the old Regulars, are still of considerable value. The Yeoman can ride and shoot; those of them who are farmers (and certainly in the Counties most of the Yeomen still are farmers) understand the management of horses; they hunt, and they are not lost if you dump them down on a strange piece of country. They are men of good stamp, used in a way to command, as they are in the habit of being obeyed by their own farm labourers, thus they know the value of discipline, and are an efficient and valuable body of men. The old Volunteers and present Territorials are intelligent fellows of a good class, and their various handicrafts would make them extremely useful in a National emergency, not merely as fighting men, but in the various departments of the Army. Many of them would be very welcome reinforcements to the artisans of the Service, and, like the Yeomen, a percentage of them, appreciable, if not large, served in the war in South Africa. With regard to their ages, the men, Regular and unprofessional, up to 45 would be fit to go back to the ranks. You will remember that the men between 35 and 45 years of age were those whom the Americans found in their great Civil War to be best able to support the hardships and strain of war. A very large number of the National Reservists are between those ages. For the older men abundant employment would be found in guarding bridges, railway stations, stores, magazines, and all the rest of those innumerable jobs which crop up on active service, and which sap the strength of the units by calling away numbers of men from the ranks to do work which older men are perfectly competent to perform.

#### Results of Work in Dorsetshire.

I am sorry to have to occasionally talk about my own work in Dorsetshire, but the reason is that I have fuller figures about my own County than I have been able to obtain from elsewhere, and I think they are germane to the question. Therefore, as an example of the sort of material which is being collected, let me give you very shortly the particulars of the National Reserve in my County, which is probably typical of many other agricultural districts in England. On December 31st, 1911, there were on the roll in Dorsetshire, 34 officers, and 793 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men. Of the 34 officers, 13 have been in the Regular Army, the others in the unprofessional Services. Thirteen of



them have been on active service. Of the 793 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men, 16 have been in the Navy or the Marines; 283 in the Regular Army; 31 in the Militia; 113 in the Yeomanry; 348 in the Volunteers and Territorials, and two in Oversea corps. One hundred and seventy-three of these men have seen active service. Their ages are—under 45 (that is to say up to the very prime of life), 462; between 45 and 55 there are 184, and over 55 there are 145. If we take these as examples of the sort of men who are to be had all over England, if not for the asking, at any rate, for the seeking, it is impossible to resist the conclusion that in those who are eligible to join the National Reserve the country possesses an ultimate reserve which only requires proper organization to become an invaluable asset in national defence.

And now to turn to the immediate object of my lecture, the raising of the National Reserve in a country district. In the discussion which will follow this lecture I hope we shall get valuable information from those who have had wider experience than mine, for I have only been in charge of the registration in Dorset since October, and I hope there are many officers here who have been at work in their Counties much longer, and who will be able to give us many hints. Yet in the hope that my personal experiences may be of use to those who have not yet begun operations seriously, I venture to talk about my own work.

#### Experiences as Recruiter.

Let me begin by saying that I started handicapped by being a stranger, for I had only been three months in the County when, just after the Coronation, I was asked to raise a company of National Reservists in the little town of Sherborne, where I live. The first thing obviously was to get to know the men eligible to join, and with the help of two or three energetic ex-N.C.O.'s I made out a list of all ex-Regulars and ex-Volunteers of whom I could hear, and in order to start friendly relations invited them to a smoking concert. To show that there was no political feeling in the movement, I got a strong Radical, who was also an ardent ex-Volunteer, to take the Chair, and thus smoothed over the political question at once. During the concert, he and I, and some other old soldiers who spoke, explained the object of the National Reserve very carefully to the men. We emphasized that there were certain social advantages to be gained by belonging to the National Reserve; how the Government was going to give badges by means of which we could all be identified; how that the men were to be allowed to form clubs without any money being provided with which to do it. They were also told that they might form shooting clubs, and that the Government would allow ten rifles per shooting club and ammunition at cost price. [A local wag, when he heard that the ammunition was to be

obtained at cost price by men, the bulk of whom were earning from 16s. to 19s. a week, remarked that it was rather like the man in the Bible, who said to the poor man "Be ye warmed and fed," but forgot to give him even the Good Samaritan's twopence !] Curiously enough, what pleased the men very much indeed was to know that we might render military honours at the funerals of registered veterans.<sup>1</sup>

At this concert more than 60 registered their names, and for days afterwards my house was besieged by men demanding to be registered, and who came provided with lists of old comrades whom they said I had better hunt up. I did hunt them up, with such good results, that at the end of the year the Sherborne register contained the names of 175 of all ranks raised out of a population of 8,000 souls. But I should like to point out to anyone who is thinking of taking on the actual work of recruiting, that though it is extremely interesting, it is uncommonly hard work. I found that the Regulars for the most part were quite ready to sign, once they became satisfied that I was a decent sort of person, and not likely to be trying to humbug them, but a great many of the Volunteers required more than one visit. They liked to talk the thing over carefully; they wanted to have it all explained to them; they wanted their wives to hear about it, and to feel quite sure if they put down their names and addresses, that the Government was not going to snatch them up, and embark them next day for Cape Town or Hong-Kong. But once they were satisfied that the War Office had no such dark intentions they began to sign on. The Yeomen were a very hard nut to crack; they are a very conservative set, who are disposed to mistrust new things and new people. They said: "This man has not been here long; he does not hunt—we will see about it." However, gradually their hearts have begun to thaw, and we have not only recruited a great many for our local company, but have been able to induce a total of 131 Yeomen to join in the County, and we are getting in more of them every day.

When you are trying to enrol men you have to be ready to meet the time-honoured argument that there is no need to register their names, because every Britisher would turn out in

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<sup>1</sup> In our little town we have already had two such funerals. One was of a young fellow who had been in the Somersetshire Light Infantry, who staggered into the workhouse infirmary one day feeling very ill, and died shortly afterwards. His people were so poor that the man was going to be given a pauper's funeral. The veterans of Sherborne said "This shall not be." We turned out a number of men; his bier was drawn by sergeants, one of whom had been a colour-sergeant in his old regiment; a number of men followed him to the grave; the coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and he was buried, not as a pauper, but as a soldier. The other was of an old Marine, who had been bed-ridden many years. The National Reservists are now raising a little fund to supply wreaths at future funerals.—G. LE M.G.

case of need, but my experience is that if you put it to them as a question of business they very soon understand the answer, and that answer is: "How on earth can the Government know what preparations to make in the way of providing arms, equipment, and so on, and make its plans for availing itself of your services unless it has a rough idea of how many men in each locality are likely to turn out?" You have also to try to beat into their heads that they are not assuming any liability by registering their names; but it is very difficult to make some of them realize this. I have known an ex-Regular—a very intelligent fellow—to take six weeks to decide whether or not he would sign. I said to him: "You know you are only giving your name and address for us to write to you in case of need." He replied, "All right, sir; I will think about it." Finally he came to me and said: "Well, sir, I have made up my mind; if things is bad with the country, I shall turn out, and so here goes; I sign on. But I was not going to sign on and bind myself until I felt I was justified, because I have a wife and six children to think of." Although we print in large letters at the top of the registration paper which the men sign a statement that they are not bound to turn out and fight, except at their own free will, large numbers consider that they have assumed a definite military obligation. I mention this to show the excellent spirit there is among those eligible for the National Reserve, who, as I have said, are to be found if you take the trouble to go and look for them.

#### Readiness of ex-Regulares to Join.

Some of my recruiting experiences may be of interest to officers who take up the work in the future. I have never received anything but friendly politeness at any one of the numerous houses and cottages I have been into in Dorsetshire, even from those wives who were most determined that their husbands should have no more "of that soldiering." The Volunteers seemed pleased at my call: the Regulars were much gratified at a visit from an officer. Take one instance. I heard that there were several old soldiers in a village in my neighbourhood. I wrote to one of them to ask if he could help me, and in two or three days, I went to the place, and on the outskirts met a man with old soldier stamped all over him. I said: "Can you tell me where Mr. Bill Smith lives?" The fellow looked at me and said, "Are you the officer, sir, as wrote Bill Smith about this 'ere National Reserve, because if so, we want to join?" I went on to see Bill Smith, who was out, but his wife was at home, and I had not been there more than two minutes before she produced his medals. While we were talking, the next door neighbour came in to say that her husband was out, and would I like to see his medals too? Then an ex-guardsmen passed, who had settled in the village; he was brought in, and we began to talk about his regiment—

luckily I knew some men in it, and we swore eternal friendship. Next I went to see the big Yeoman; he took me to see the Parson, who turned out to be an ex-Volunteer officer, and as a result three or four nights afterwards we had a meeting, at which every man who had ever shouldered a rifle in that village signed on. This only shows what is to be done if you go and talk to the people about it. It is no use sending out circulars and things of that sort unless you follow them up by personal talks, personal interviews. In some houses the man produces fly-blown photographs of regimental groups, and if you happen to know some of the officers in the groups, the flood gates of conversation are opened. He shouts out to his wife, who is upstairs. "Here's an officer who knows the regiment; come down." There is a scuffle, and you hear the wife obviously putting on a clean apron; then she appears, they talk for hours about the regiment and the Service! The *esprit d'armée* is enormous, and if the authorities only understand how to develop it there is really no limit to what it may do. Of course, all the men don't want to join; and some of their reasons are very funny. There is always the stock excuse, "There is no hurry." Others say that they do not approve of the scheme, but utterly fail to give any reason why they do not approve of it. One man declined to join because if the country was invaded his place was to stay at his home and defend it! Another, although it was pointed out to him that he incurred no obligation to drill in peace or fight in war, steadily refused to join because he said it would be "bad for business." I tried to get to the bottom of that man's mind, but failed utterly, and could not get anything out of him except that it would be "bad for business." A third man would not register his name because he had left the Territorials as a protest in favour of compulsory universal training, and he felt that if he joined the National Reserve it would retard that "consummation devoutly to be wished!"

#### Suggestions for Registration Work.

To turn to the registration in a County as a whole, I have found in doing the work in Dorsetshire that the first thing the man who is organizing the whole show has to realize is that it is useless to try for a hard and fast system, and that he must employ his collaborators, not as *he* likes, but as *they* like. They are putting themselves out to do gratuitous work for the Country, and you must let them do it on their own lines; you can only hope to put them on the right track. Another thing is not to bother them constantly by asking them how they are getting on, but to give them every opportunity to go on, and plenty of material to go on with; but do not worry them. The ideal to be aimed at is to establish a network all over the country side, with agents in every town and village and hamlet; but to accomplish this even partially takes a very long time, and though in some parts of Dorsetshire such an organization exists, in others it still has to be created, and most of the work

at present falls on the shoulders of comparatively few energetic and patriotic individuals, who take the trouble to hustle, and go and see people, and write letters, and get up meetings, and so forth. But I am bound to say that I have already found in daily increasing numbers zealous and systematic collaborators in every class of society. Once the thing is brought home to their minds people will come forward and help, but it takes much writing and much talking before people, especially in the country, begin to realize what the National Reserve means. But every day I find more people coming forward to help me—parsons and postmen, masters of fox hounds and masters of village schools, retired officers of all branches of the Service, officers still in the Special Reserve and the Territorials, tradesmen, old non-commissioned officers and soldiers, relieving officers who know every soul in their districts, rural policemen who have been in the Army, who are all invaluable in their different ways. The hint that I am now going to give may be of use to anyone who is starting on registration work. When we are beginning operations in a new district we break ground by sending to every man who is known to have been a regular Soldier, or Volunteer, or in any other branch of the Service a circular, in which the objects of the National Reserve are explained in thoroughly unofficial language. It is very short, and is suited to the understanding of the men for whom it is meant. In addition to the circular we send the man a paper to fill up to say if he wants to join, and also a polite note addressed to himself, written, not typed, saying that we hope he is going to join, and that if he does, all he has to do is to fill up the paper and send it back in the stamped envelope which is enclosed. If he does not like to join at once and wants more information, we tell him that he only has to write for it, and we will send someone to talk to him, and explain away his difficulties. In the towns we do the same, but there we send out circulars first, saying we are going to have a meeting on a particular night: "If you want any further information come and hear all about it, and if you are ready to sign, come and bring the application with you; whether you sign or not, we shall be very glad to see you." There is no doubt that men are attracted by these means. We had a meeting the other night at Poole, and after the speaking was over 64 men joined—all first-rate men too. This is the way to work it: arrange for a meeting; let the Mayor or some big local man take the Chair; get, if possible, three or four popular non-commissioned officers or old soldiers to help you speak and to start the ball rolling, and once it starts it goes on. Old soldiers are very keen on getting their comrades to join, and they help gladly. One of our strongest rules is that we should have no wasters. It is impressed upon every one of our recruiters that we will not have any man whose character will not bear investigation; we will not have any "bad hats" out of the Army or "bad hats" in civil life.

### Essential to make Provision for Wives and Children.

It is for the War Office to decide how the excellent material is to be employed, which the Territorial Force Associations are registering: and, in the event of the authorities calling into Council those who are doing the spade work I have described, I trust that the County Associations will be represented as well as those administering great cities, for in dealing with the potential force we are collecting it must ever be remembered that the conditions in the country differ essentially from those in the towns. In one respect, however, the conditions are absolutely identical. Whether the National Reservist is a ploughman in Dorsetshire, a pitman in Yorkshire, or a dock labourer in London, it is equally essential before he is asked to accept any binding legal obligation—any contract of service—that he should know that his wife and children will not suffer in a material sense, if he is killed or maimed or otherwise incapacitated on active service. Unless he is fully satisfied on this point, you cannot expect him to turn out and fight. It may be said this is not a patriotic view, but it is the common sense view. Look at the facts. The National Reservists in their various ways have already shown patriotism; the ex-Regulars by serving in all parts of the world, all at the risk of health and many with the added risk of war. The non-professionals have given time and spent money in learning as much of their duty as soldiers as their opportunities permitted, and have devoted their scanty holidays, often at the risk of losing their employment, to attending the annual camps. The very fact of every man in the National Reserve having served in some branch of the Army shows them superior in patriotism to the vast majority of their fellow citizens, who have never attempted to qualify themselves in the slightest degree for the defence of their country; and because they have proved themselves patriotic in the past, they are now invited to show themselves patriotic if an emergency should arise in the future. That every man in the National Reserve whose health is good enough to pass the doctors would turn out I have no doubt, provided he is assured that by fighting for his country in her hour of need he is not exposing his wife and children to the possibility of becoming inmates of a workhouse. But recollect this, however:—The National Reservist is not a fool, and he will say if he is suddenly asked to turn out in an emergency, "Why should I run the risk of seeing my wife and children ruined financially by my death? Why should I take this risk when the rest of the men in my street are not going to fight? All that could happen to them if the enemy invaded us and came to this part of the world is that they would be put on to a little forced labour, but otherwise they would be perfectly well treated as long as they are civil to the fellows on the other side. They have nothing to fear as long as they are subservient. We, who are asked to take up arms, will be fighting with the mil-

stone round our necks of not knowing what is to become of our wives and children if we go down. Is that fair?"

If Government will set the men at rest upon this point, let them know what is expected of them in case of need, and make timely and adequate preparation for using them when the occasion arises—then I say unhesitatingly that the National Reserve will become a very important factor in the defence of the heart, the citadel of the British Empire.



## APPENDIX.

### STRENGTH OF THE NATIONAL RESERVE.

Summary of Returns from the Territorial Force Associations,  
showing the numbers in the areas they administer on  
December 31st, 1911.

#### NOTE.

*Classification of the branches of the Service in which the National Reservists formerly served:*—Owing to the fact that a considerable number of the returns do not give all the information required, the only figures in this table which can be considered definite are the total enrolments of all ranks. The others are incomplete; for instance, the number of officers and men who have been on active service is obviously very much understated, owing to certain Territorial Associations which among them have registered more than 39,000 names not having stated how many had served on a campaign. Where information is wanting, the name of the County is followed by an asterisk, and a note of interrogation calls attention to the missing figures.

## ENGLAND.

County,	Officers.	Other Ranks.	Total.	Royal Navy or Royal Marines	Regular Army,	Militia or Special Reserve.	Volunteers or Territorials.	Forces of Oversea Dominions, &c.	Naval Reserve who have been on Active Service.
Bedford ...	8	178	186	1	164	4	16	1	94
Berkshire* ...	4	50	54	...	42	1	10	1	?
Buckingham ...	29	718	747	8	230	82	422	5	143
Cambridge ...	14	64	78	...	32	11	34	1	18
Cheshire* ...	17	681	698	30	231	13	423	1	?
Cornwall* ...	?	?	800	?	?	?	?	?	?
Cumberland ...	11	68	79	...	5	3	69	2	14
Derby ...	45	1,996	2,041	42	781	45	1,159	14	421
Devon* ...	10	320	330	?	?	?	?	?	?
Dorset ...	34	793	827	17	295	33	481	1	188
Durham ...	23	533	556	2	175	43	327	4	162
Essex ...	72	1,549	1,621	17	473	89	1,008	34	314
Gloucester* ...	77	1,392	1,469	?	?	?	?	?	?
Hereford* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hertford ...	9	68	77	2	23	4	47	1	25
Huntingdon* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kent ...	105	4,448	4,553	111	1,837	157	2,377	51	1,197
Lancashire, East ...	49	4,512	4,561	18	1,537	293	2,692	21	1,050
Lancashire, West* ...	?	?	1,000	?	?	?	?	?	?
Leicester & Rutland* ...	7	277	284	...	170	35	77	2	?
Lincoln ...	2	35	37	...	15	...	22	...	14
City & County of London* ...	767	20,577	21,344	112	12,000	?	?	?	?
Middlesex* ...	5	784	789	?	?	?	?	?	?
Norfolk ...	29	142	171	...	22	7	139	3	21
Northampton* ...	35	631	666	7	280	96	248	35	...
Northumberland ...	32	707	739	5	250	57	426	1	188
Nottingham ...	19	963	982	10	596	117	251	8	534
Oxford ...	33	1,584	1,617	33	613	181	781	9	576
Shropshire ...	27	809	836	3	412	181	234	3	321
Somerset* ...	54	904	958	?	?	?	?	?	?
Southampton (i.e. Hants)* ...	187	2,661	2,848	71	1,308	73	1,297	99	?
Stafford* ...	14	172	186	1	92	3	90	...	?
Suffolk ...	36	501	537	2	157	44	328	6	103
Surrey ...	122	4,078	4,200	102	2,058	72	1,931	37	875
Sussex* ...	51	826	877	21	350	24	467	15	...
Warwick* ...	56	863	919	?	?	?	?	?	?
Westmoreland ...	6	21	27	...	6	...	21	...	6
Wiltshire* ...	49	865	912	?	?	?	?	?	?
Worcester ...	21	478	499	7	194	46	247	5	130
Yorks. North Riding ...	9	44	53	...	14	11	20	8	13
Yorks. East Riding ...	20	156	176	1	126	6	42	1	99
Yorks. West Riding* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<hr/>									
2,038 55,428 59,336 623 34,708 1,739 15,686 379 6509									



## SCOTLAND.

County.	Officers.	Other Ranks.	Total.	Royal Navy or Royal Marines.	Regular Army.	Militia or Special Reserve.	Volunteers or Territorials.	Forces of Imperial Dominions, &c.	Numbers who have been on Active Service.
Aberdeen (City of) ...	26	674	700	3	250	180	266	1	98
Aberdeen (County of) ...	48	638	686	...	17	5	659	5	17
Argyll ...	15	154	169	...	13	1	155	...	12
Ayr ...	46	1,187	1,233	4	280	60	886	3	2
Banff* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Berwick* ...	3	20	23	...	...	...	23	...	?
Bute ...	2	18	20	...	...	...	20	...	1
Caithness ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Clackmannan ...	11	31	42	...	5	...	37	...	6
Dumbarton* ...	17	196	213	1	41	1	170	...	?
Dumfries ...	11	140	151	...	72	10	68	1	80
Dundee (City of)* ...	15	175	190	...	79	15	91	5	62
Edinburgh (City of)* ...	193	4,426	4,619	104	2,901	127	1,487	...	?
Elgin ...	3	23	26	...	8	...	18	...	8
Fife* ...	?	?	408	?	?	?	?	?	?
Forfar* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glasgow (City of) ...	56	327	383	...	149	3	231	...	?
Haddington ...	11	233	244	2	74	17	150	1	45
Inverness ...	2	7	9	...	5	1	3	...	3
Kinross ...	6	23	29	...	11	18	...	...	4
Kincardine ...	10	111	121	1	4	1	114	1	5
Kirkcudbright ...	9	54	63	2	22	2	37	...	18
Lanark ...	3	79	82	2	30	5	44	1	18
Linlithgow ...	6	74	80	1	24	5	49	1	16
Midlothian ...	13	454	467	5	265	13	184	...	158
Nairn ...	...	18	18	...	3	...	15	...	...
Orkney ...	...	...	"Nil"	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peebles ...	3	20	23	...	6	...	17	...	1
Perth* ...	?	?	12	?	?	?	?	?	?
Renfrew ...	28	180	208	...	33	1	174	...	16
Ross & Cromarty ...	1	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	1
Roxburgh* ...	4	48	52	...	21	...	31	...	?
Selkirk* ...	...	73	73	...	28	...	45	...	?
Stirling* ...	4	66	70	...	23	...	47	...	?
Sutherland ...	3	...	3	...	2	1	...	...	...
Wigtown ...	4	102	106	1	35	...	70	...	30
Zetland ...	2	31	33	...	2	...	30	1	4
	536	9,583	10,560	123	4,394	466	4,223	20	605

## WALES.

County.	Officers.	Other Ranks.	Total.	Royal Navy or Royal Marines.	Regular Army.	Militia or Special Reserve.	Volunteers or Territorials.	Forces of Oversea Dominions, &c.	Numbers who have been in Active Service.
Anglesey ...	3	42	45	...	3	1	39	2	10
Carnarvon ...	...	...	...	"Nil"	...	...	...	...	...
Brecknock ...	5	11	16	...	7	...	8	1	4
Cardigan ...	3	33	36	...	9	1	26	...	8
Carmarthen ...	8	106	114	...	9	...	105	...	17
Denbigh* ...	10	73	83	...	14	...	69	...	?
Flint* ...	2	18	20	...	1	3	16	...	?
Glamorgan* ...	17	391	408	?	?	?	?	?	?
Merioneth* ...	2	53	55	?	?	?	?	?	?
Monmouth ...	13	417	430	13	195	6	213	3	123
Montgomery ...	11	100	111	...	14	12	85	...	17
Pembroke ...	9	149	158	5	12	8	132	1	29
Radnor ...	...	5	5	...	2	...	3	...	2
	83	1,396	1,479	18	266	31	696	7	210

## RECAPITULATION.

England ...	2,038	55,428	59,336	623	31,708	1,739	15,686	379	6,509
Scotland ...	556	9,583	10,560	123	4,391	466	4,223	20	605
Wales ...	83	1,396	1,479	18	266	31	696	7	210
	2,677	66,407	71,375	764	36,365	2,137	20,605	406	7,324

## DISCUSSION.

**Lord Saye and Sele:** I ask you to listen to me for a few minutes while I speak in my position as Chairman of the Recruiting Committee of the Oxfordshire County Association. I take credit to myself that when this movement was first put to the front I at any rate realized it was one of the vastest importance, so much so that I went to the extent of betting our Territorial Secretary half a crown twelve months ago that we would have a thousand National Reservist veterans in Oxfordshire before last Christmas, and when last Christmas came we had 1,300. I may say at once that we had a great many failures before we reached success. I will not bother you with the number of failures, but I will just mention one, namely, that it is absolutely useless to write letters to the papers. Nothing but personal acquaintance with the people will get you what you want. With that in view I formed this idea—to drive round the county with our most invaluable Secretary, Major Lee, in a motor car, to go to each large village in Oxfordshire—(as you know we have no big towns in Oxfordshire)—and find one individual there, either a Volunteer or a Yeoman or a Regular, who would act as a Registrar. I myself made up a dozen MS. books, each book containing two or three specimens of the kind of work that had to be done, such as the attestations. Those books we took round with us. The books contain particulars of the branch of the Service the particular man was in, the regiment he served in, and the trade he belonged to, and it finished up with the declaration, "*I am willing if*

*called upon to come up for service during a state of national emergency.*" We drove round Oxfordshire in that way; we took on about a dozen registrars in the different villages with the idea that when the men had filled these books up they would diverge outwards into a network covering all the villages of Oxfordshire. That has practically happened, because we have now got in touch with every village in Oxfordshire. Having done that, having got the names down in the books, I gave out that as soon as fifty men were enrolled in any one village or district in Oxfordshire we would have a Church Parade on the Sunday and a dinner, and as my share I collected in small sums the money for those dinners—a thing I absolutely disapprove of, because the Government ought to do it. But still, as you all know in things of this kind, such things have to be paid for by private enterprise at the start. I did it at the start, and I intend now to get it out of the Government as soon as I can. We got the money for these dinners, and we have had five Parades already in five different parts of Oxfordshire, and we have three other districts in Oxfordshire now waiting for their Parades and dinners. That is what we have done so far.

What I want to point out to the meeting is this—that it is all very well to do that; it is all very well to have all those men registered, but unless those annual Parades are kept up the registration will not be kept up unless the Government—now that they have got these men in the hollow of their hands—give us something more than what they are giving us now. If that is not done it will be quite impossible for this thing to be kept up. It is all very well for Lord Haldane to talk about a shilling a man, and to say that it does not cost anything. That is perfectly ridiculous. Everybody knows that registration and keeping up such things must cost a certain sum of money; and if it is necessary to have a Parade—as I maintain it is necessary to have a Parade—then the Government has got to pay for it. I wish Lord Haldane could see, as I saw in Oxfordshire, 800 of the finest men you ever saw in your life on Parade. I think the average age of the whole of our men in Oxfordshire who are in the National Reserve is well under forty. It may be that it is not much over thirty; at any rate it is well under forty, and they are the finest men you ever saw in your life, and I sincerely hope the Government are not going to waste those men by simply talking about the scheme. With all due respect to the Lecturer we do not want to talk about funerals—we have not had any funerals in Oxfordshire, we are all so healthy. We do not want funerals; we want live men, not dead men. But as I was saying, I hope the Government are not going to waste all these men, because, as far as I can see, in this force at 5s. a head, Lord Haldane has got the cheapest thing he ever had in his life.

**Major-General Sir John Steevens, K.C.B.:** I understand that at this meeting we are trying to help one another by telling our experiences. The Lecturer has told us the way in which he carried out the scheme in his county, and so far as London is concerned, I may say our endeavour for raising this Force has been to get the civil and military portions of our social life into touch, which will, I may add, further that universal service which a good many people desire. Apart from that, the local civilian head of a borough or a township is the man who, in my opinion, has the greatest influence on the inhabitants, provided you assist him by a certain amount of military organization. In London we have now registered 23,000 officers and men. I have spoken in public halls throughout London in support of this idea of the National Reserve, and in each

case emphasized very strongly that the man gets nothing out of it. All he receives is a badge of honour approved by the King, and I tell them to say, when they are asked why they wear that badge "it is a sign to all men that, as long as I have strength in my body, I place it at the disposal of my country and of my King." It is their great patriotism, in my opinion, that calls these men back to the Colours as it were to join the Reserve. When a man has once served in the Army you will find that he is the biggest patriot, and ready to come out again in time of emergency. They will all come. The country is full of such men if you can only get at them by talking to them and telling them what they are to do. I remember that among the applications that arrived in the City of London was one from a man who wanted to join, who wrote that perhaps there might be some expense connected with it, and said that he was only a private in such and such a regiment, but he enclosed a Post Office order for half a crown, so that he might help this national movement. If that is not patriotism I do not know what is.

#### UTILIZATION OF THE NATIONAL RESERVE.

Registration in itself is of little use. It is no use having the names and addresses of men to-day; we may want them five years hence. Therefore the whole difficulty is to keep in touch with the men all the time. Here in London, as I say, we brought the matter before the notice of the various boroughs. The Mayors of the twenty-eight boroughs of London have risen nearly unanimously to this cause, and they have done all they could. There is a local feeling of rivalry between the different boroughs; one borough wants to do better than the other. There is rivalry, I assure you, as to which shall lead. This is the sort of thing they do. They get the local "Empire" or the local Cinematograph Theatre to give a free entrée to some of their performances to all men wearing their Reservist badges. The Mayor attends in his robes, and you go yourself in uniform. In the middle of the entertainment the Mayor will get up and propose a vote of thanks to the management; then one will say a few words, and the enthusiasm that is aroused by the meeting seems to go right out into the streets; everybody hears about it, and men who are eligible come and join. But as regards registration, it does not depend upon the public interest really; it depends upon the energy which is being put into it by the Territorial Associations, or by the officers who undertake the work for them. We have many officers who have undertaken the work for the Association, who have done a tremendous amount of work, and it is only in that way that you will be successful. But the organization cannot stop at registration. Of the 23,000 men that have been registered in London, I should say that 15,000 at least are fit to go into marching regiments. Therefore we must try and find some means of utilizing their services, but directions to that end must come from the War Office. The War Office have been waiting for a long time to know how many men we are able to produce. Now we are able to tell them the number, what their ages and what their physical capabilities are. When they have this information I hope the War Office will produce some scheme to make use of their services. I myself could produce a scheme to-morrow, at least according to my own idea, by which they could be utilized. But after all is said and done, I think we must aim at a legal liability. At a meeting that was held in this Institute to discuss this matter, on the 8th December, some fifty representatives of County Territorial Associations met. At that meeting only one definite motion was carried, although a great deal of

conversation took place, and much useful information was given. The definite motion was that a section of this national reserve should undertake a legal liability, to take the place of the Territorial Force Reserve. Until you get that the War Office apparently can make no use of the men, at least that is what I gather from conversations I have had, and I think it is partially right. If you impose a legal liability I am convinced that the younger men in most cases will undertake it. You must remember that all the Territorials are under strength, so that these men could form a reserve to the Territorial Regiments, in the same way that the Reservists are allocated to the *Dépôts* of their Regiments on mobilization. This will be a Territorial Reserve. The Territorial Force Reserve, which is mentioned in the Regulations is absolutely non-existent; but from this National Reserve I am sure you could get what the General Staff require. I think it was the Lecturer who referred to the fact that he wished the War Office would have representatives on a Committee to discuss any matters connected with this Reserve.

**The Lecturer:** What I said was that I hoped that if the War Office called into Council the members of the Territorial Associations they would invite the officers who were doing the work to come; that they will not allow themselves to be entirely influenced by the men who are doing the work in London, but will allow the men who are doing the work in the country to be represented also.

**Major-General Sir John Steevens:** I may say that your views have already been carried out, because there is an Advisory Council, under the Chairmanship of Lord Roberts, which sits at the War Office, and on that Council we have members from Edinburgh in the North, from Somerset in the West; from Surrey in the South, and a representative from the Metropolis, so that I think the Lecturer's point has already been met by the War Office in regard to this matter. The point I wish to bring forward is that registration is of little use; you must advance and keep the thing together. And, of course, you must have money to do it with. Unless money is forthcoming from public funds I do not think it will continue.

**Major C. P. Lovelock** said that as representing a portion of Surrey somewhat between London and the country, he desired to make a few remarks with regard to this Lecture, and he did so in full agreement with the last speaker, that registration was the smallest part of the business. In the locality in which he resided they found that something must be done to bring the people together in the first instance, and that smoking concerts and convivial meetings of that kind were the best means to adopt. Probably one could not get into that close personal touch with men in the suburbs that was possible in the country, but they found that the announcement of a gathering, where old soldiers might meet and enjoy themselves, and have a pleasant evening, always resulted in a very large number of registrations. In the district with which he was concerned they had registered in the National Reserve something like three times the number of men there were in the local Territorial Companies; that showed that the ground was fairly covered. But the difficulty was this. They had started rather early in Surrey. The first year they had a Club Meeting; the next year a smoking concert; this year they had contrived a function at which a few prizes would be presented that had been won at the Morris Tube Shooting Competitions, and at which also a certificate would be given to each man

who had enrolled. But after this year they would have to devise something else, otherwise he was sure the interest would flag. The men required to meet. It was very surprising to find, at these gatherings, how many men coming from different parts of the same district had belonged, perhaps, to a particular Battalion of the Guards and so companionships had been formed in that way, and the meetings always resulted in more registrations. But still it was rather a heavy pull on someone's pocket. People were very good in subscribing money, but it seemed to him hardly fair that one should have to put one's hand into one's pocket to do what was clearly a very important service for the country, and for which all reasonable funds should be forthcoming from the Government.

As regards the class of man to be registered, he had had one peculiar experience in connection with a Company. A man had come and enrolled one evening; he remarked in a suggestive way that he had got an evening off. He wondered what was meant, and puzzled over it until the next day when, while he was at work in the office, another man came and said, "Please can I join the Reserve?" He replied "Yes," and was weak enough to give him half a crown. A few hours afterwards the Master of a certain Workhouse rang him up on the telephone and said, "You had a man call on you some time ago and you gave him half a crown. I have about seven hundred men all wanting to come out for the purpose of coming down to join the Reserve!" He thought, therefore, with regard to registration that it was necessary to make more enquiries in some districts than in others. In his own case they had been able to impose the condition that the men to be registered should really be residing in the district and be known; otherwise they would be flooded out with undesirables, of which there were a certain number about.

He thought too, as a result of experience, that those who had the right to wear uniforms should wear them as often as possible in connection with these functions. The other evening he went to a little march out for the first time, not in uniform, and a great deal of disappointment was expressed. An N.C.O. said to him, "Why didn't you put your clothes on, Sir?" The men seem to think it gives them a link with the past. At the smoking concerts and all the various functions you will find it a great help if you will wear your regimentals; it gives the thing more of a reality if officers do wear their uniforms. With regard to the question of Church Parades, we have had several of them and the muster of men on those occasions is very great. The point I wish to enforce is that something must be done very soon to give new life to the undertaking. We started early in Surrey, and therefore the deterioration will probably set in with us sooner than in other counties; and so certainly as that aspect of the question is neglected, so certainly will the freshness of the movement wear off, and the value of it be lost.

Major E. P. Smith, late Royal Artillery, said he cordially agreed with the remarks of the last speaker as to the tremendous patriotism there was in the country, and he felt sure it was not confined by any means to those who had served in the Army or the auxiliary forces; outside that class, in the civilian class, there was a great deal of most excellent material, which could be used for the defence of the country.

He would like to ask the Lecturer whether it was possible to include civilians in this most excellent scheme. In the average English village they would find there were very often a most efficient body of men, who would be ready to fight in the defence of their shores. They had never

been connected in any way with the Army or with the Reserve Forces, and he thought it was a thousand pities that this excellent material, consisting of men who were spending an open-air life, should be wasted. Let them take, for instance, the various classes to which the Lecturer had referred—men such as hunt servants, grooms, game keepers, and their assistants, and he would even include people like gardeners and woodmen, men who were in the prime of condition, and who would be of the greatest possible use. He lived a few miles from the Southdown Hunt Kennels, and felt sure the men there would be invaluable. They knew every inch of the country, and they could be used for despatch riding and that sort of thing. Very often for the defence of a position it was necessary, not only to entrench, but to cut down wood, and there again they wanted men who were acquainted with forestry and able to cut down trees in a short time. He was connected in a small way in that part of Sussex with the Boy Scouts. That movement had been going on for about four or five years, and the boys who enlisted when the movement first started were now becoming men.

**The Chairman:** I am afraid you are getting a little off the course. I am greatly interested in Boy Scouts myself, but that is not the subject of the paper which is being discussed.

**Major E. P. Smith** said he mentioned it merely for this purpose, that if they only took men who had been connected with the Service he thought they were leaving out a most excellent body of men, who would furnish excellent material for the defence of the country.

**The Chairman:** We have heard a most interesting Lecture from Colonel Gretton, and I am sure the discussion will be productive of a considerable amount of good. I am sorry that Mr. St. Loe Strachey, who was really the originator of this idea, is not here to-day, because he began, not three years ago, but about ten years ago by drawing up an appeal to the Press for the purpose of impressing on the War Office the valuable asset they were losing in the country in the shape of the old soldiers who were turned adrift after ten years or more service and who were never used again. When Mr. St. Loe Strachey started the idea he came to me and asked me to support him, and I did so, because I held exactly the same view as Chairman of the Territorial Association of Surrey and we elaborated the scheme, which has produced very good results.

The way we worked in Surrey was to organize round each Territorial centre. At each place which had a company or more we organized a company of the National Reserve, hoping that those who had served in the Territorials would naturally go back to their local company and serve in its ranks. Of course, at that time we had no idea how the old soldiers' services would be utilized. We found the scheme very successful. As we got 150 men at any particular centre, we formed a second company and so on—Croydon has four or five companies—and then they formed themselves into a battalion. In that way we hope to get men who will be of use in times of emergency.

I think the War Office made a great mistake, at first, in laying too much stress on the social side. The fact is that when Lord Haldane laid that great stress on the social side, the War Office did not think they would ever want to use the Reservists, because they thought they would

be able to fill up the Territorial Forces from the Territorial Reserve. But the Territorial Reserve has come to nothing, and now the War Office has taken the view that there is something in this National Reserve, and that they will want a great many of the men in it to serve in a time of emergency. There is no doubt that now it is for them to say what more they are going to do, as all the speakers have emphasized to-day. I entirely agree with them, that unless you do something to support this movement it will fall off. We are trying to form Social Clubs and that sort of thing, but that alone will not do. The men are all saying, "What are you going to do?" and the reason the numbers in many of the counties are not larger is that the men do not understand the movement—that the whole system is too vague. There is no obligation; there is nothing laid down as to what they are to do when they are called out, or what they are likely to have to do, or what is to become of their families. In many counties they are simply sitting on the fence in order to see what becomes of the movement.

#### THE NEED OF A DEFINITE POLICY.

London and three of the counties furnish more than half of the present total number of the National Reserve. That is natural, perhaps, because the movement was taken up first in Surrey and then London followed suit at once. London has enrolled 21,000 men and Surrey 4,000 men, but many counties have hardly touched the scheme at all. It is now for the War Office to say what they are going to do; do they want these men or do they not? If they want them to serve they should say so, and lay down where they want them to serve. They have gone a certain way in the Regulations by laying down three categories. First of all there is the category below forty-five, then the category between forty-five and fifty-five, men who would be fit for administrative work or garrison duty; and then there are the old veterans, who of course are of no use for practical purposes; they are simply the social element. But it is the men under forty-five that we want to know what to do with. Are all these men going to be wasted to the country? Let the War Office say, "We will offer to take as many men as you like into the Territorial Force on mobilization, and we will provide them with arms and accoutrements in peace time, and they shall be under an obligation to serve." It is absolutely useless to make schemes of mobilization at the last moment. I suppose I have had as much to do with mobilization as any man, and I know that it is absolutely essential to lay down everything beforehand. It is no use bargaining with the men when the time comes and the enemy is at the door. Let them know now what the obligation is to be; what work they are to do, and what pay they are to get, and then let the men say whether they will volunteer to go into the Territorials, or whether they will volunteer to go into local companies for defence purposes, or whether they will not serve at all. If that is done, the War Office will be in a much better position to know what assets they have available, and the men will know exactly what they are going to do. If that is done I believe there are great opportunities in this National Reserve, in fact, it is the only thing as far as I can see to save the Territorial Force on the voluntary basis until you have universal service—but that is not a question we have to discuss to-day. It is an undoubted fact, however, that the numbers of the Territorial Force will come down again next year—it is 50,000 short now—and we want to fill up those spaces. The proper method of doing so I believe



to be from the National Reserve, and I believe you will get the men to do it if the War Office will only give us a strong lead and say straight out what they want us to do.

**Lord Saye and Sele:** May I ask one question, Sir, with regard to what you have said; the point has not been raised previously. Is it the general opinion that the National Reserve should be organized in companies and battalions, because I noticed that you mentioned companies and battalions in Surrey? My opinion, and the opinion of those who work with me in Oxfordshire, is absolutely against organizing the National Reserve in battalions and companies. We feel very strongly that it should be kept as a reservoir. The men consist of every branch of the Service, of all sorts of trades, and in my opinion they should be kept absolutely as a reservoir.

**The Chairman:** We simply put them into companies for the purpose of administration. When you have to deal with 4,000 men you cannot deal with individuals. You must have them in some sort of units to deal with. Of course they are all 'mixed up in' the battalions; cavalry and infantry are all mixed up together. They are simply formed into companies for the purpose of dealing with them as units instead of as individuals.

One point has been raised by Major Smith with regard to the question of utilizing certain workers like gamekeepers and huntsmen. I may say that Lord Middleton was very much interested in this question, and we started in Surrey a system of County Guides in connection with which it is thought these men will be very useful—hunt servants and men of the class to which Major Smith referred; and if he will communicate with Major Scudamore he will receive any information we can give him on the subject. The War Office have told us that these County Guides are going to be included in the Technical Reserve.

**Major E. P. Smith** asked if they would be members of the National Reserve.

**The Chairman:** No, the National Reserve is composed of ex-soldiers, and these men have no military training. They will be members of the Technical Reserve. With regard to the question of the Advisory Committee at the War Office, it consists of Lord Roberts, Sir Evelyn Wood, Lord Grenfell, Sir John Steevens, General Hallam Parr, Mr. Strachey, Major Addison Smith of Edinburgh, and myself—there are ten altogether.

**The Lecturer:** None of the men are on it who are doing the actual work.

**The Chairman:** Sir John Steevens is on it.

**The Lecturer:** But he is not one of the men who are going about and working among the cottages. He is a Londoner. You have not got a single countryman on the Committee, or, at best, you have only got about two out of ten.

**The Chairman:** The War Office wished for a small Committee and it was rather an advantage to have a small Committee. It may be enlarged no doubt later on.

**The Lecturer,** in reply, said: There is practically nothing for me to reply to, except that I should like to ask Major E. P. Smith whether he thinks that his excellent woodmen, his priceless gardener, and his invaluable

able hunt servants have acquired by instinct discipline and the habit of obeying orders which the Regular Soldier has learned by several years of continuous service? Would he like to take a company composed of gardeners and woodmen and pit them against a highly trained Continental enemy? They are doubtless very useful people in their way, and ought to be utilized, but they cannot be considered trained soldiers in any shape or form. That there is very valuable material of that sort in this country there is no doubt, and it ought to be used, but it cannot be used as part of the fighting force called the National Reserve. None of the other speakers require any comment on my part, except Sir John Steevens, who told us there was an Advisory Committee at the War Office, on which (I think he said) Edinburgh, London, Somerset and Surrey are represented in order that the views of the Territorial Associations for the whole of Great Britain should be focussed. I say that is a biased focus. For instance, take my part of the world, the West of England; what on earth does Somerset know about Devonshire, or the requirements or the views of Dorset? The conditions in the various counties are entirely different. If you are going to keep your Committee at the War Office so very small, then the men who act as representatives at the War Office must collect the opinions of the Territorial Associations which they are to voice at the War Office; that is to say, if Somerset is to be the delegate of the Western Counties, Somerset must meet the other Western Counties and hear what they have to say before Somerset goes up and talks at the War Office as their representative. I was extremely interested to hear what the system was, but it appears to me to be absolutely one-sided, for only London, Edinburgh, Somerset and Surrey are represented, which is absurd.

**General Sir Richard Harrison, G.C.B.:** I came here to listen and not to speak and I should not have ventured to make any remarks had I not been asked to propose a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman for the way in which he has conducted the business this afternoon. I have very much pleasure in doing so, because I have known him for many years. I know that he has a good head and that he has taken a great interest in this question, which though it is no doubt at present in an embryo state has great possibilities about it. I hope myself, although I am advanced in age, and I may say almost tottering down on the other side, so that I am hardly able to walk, to be able to do a very little in my own county in the way of collecting a National Reserve. I believe that, as we have Scouts at the root of the tree, so we may have some very useful branches up at the top by collecting men who have served in any capacity in our Army to help the Territorials in the defence of our great country. I ask you to accord a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for the way in which he has conducted the business to-day.

