

recognized and amply provided for. In times of peace the volunteer force has been accepted as sufficient for all tactical purposes and has been in many ways beneficial and supplied a felt want. Whether it is a sufficient substitute for the provisions of the Militia Act in what His Majesty calls a "grave crisis," such as now exists, is another matter.

The Government has, up to the present time (as to whether this has been wise or not it is not for us to discuss), continued the voluntary system, and paid no attention to the Militia Act. Of course it is true that the quickest way to get trained men (or at least partially trained men) to the front was at once to take advantage of the volunteer system as it was; and the work of the militia department was done promptly and efficiently; so that in that regard, in our unprepared condition, we owe much to the volunteers.

The men of class 1 have not responded to the call as they should. Many stand by and look on and shout, but stay at home and see men with wives and children going to the front and feel no shame. The application of the Act would put the burden where it belongs. We want a survival of the fittest and the fittest are those who are willing to leave wife and children, and if necessary to go to their death for the sake of their country. These feel compelled to go because somebody must go and those who ought to go first too often will not. If the young men of class 1 who so far lag behind were compelled to go the married men and others in classes 2, 3, and 4 would not be required, though they would still be ready when their turn came. Recruiting speeches appeal to the patriotic conscience, but they find no response from the slackers and shirkers; whilst the call is an impelling force to a lover of his country, even though he may have a wife and a child.

The Empire is and has been at war since August 4, 1914, and all the British Dominion and dependencies, including Canada, have been and are de jure and de facto at war also. If ever the Militia Act as part of the law of the land is to come into