

counts for nothing; there a man is merely an asset of the state—not voluntary or involuntary—merely spontaneous and automatic. Then what are we going to do on this side of the Pacific? Ask the Latin Republics, ask United States, ask Canada! You say why he a nation of conscripts against a little island in the East? Well, England is only a little island in the West and look at her! Japan even now enjoys the economic and soon will enjoy the political tutelage over China. In twenty-five years China will be a military nation and will have a navy perhaps under the same general staff as Japan. The Philippines and Australia are quite close relatively to their base and would be fairly easy prey. Then what of Canada and the United States? They would have to impress and conscript and that could not be done over night. A sailor or a soldier is like an engineer, it takes years to make a good one.

If not conscription may be universal voluntary service, a much more palatable and even delectable alternative. Train a boy to box and at seventy he will strike you if you insult him. Why? Because he knows how to fight; he has confidence. Men never lose habits taken on in infancy or youth. There is a sort of military drill in all our schools now. It is done to give the children a taste for order, obedience and rule; to make them upstanding, deep-breathing, eye-beaming creatures; and the children like it; they love it. The teachers come back to the room with oxygen in their lungs and the cobwebs out of their heads and they all do better work for it. In civilized countries the school teacher is ubiquitous; he is everywhere; he is a good class of a man; ought to be indeed a model physically, morally and religiously; he must be dependable, able and energetic. He is the servant of the state; is paid by the state, and will willingly serve the state.

All institutions rise best and easiest from the pedestals of the past. Use the existing machinery, all politicians, merchants, philosophers will tell you. If there is to be universal voluntary service begin with the school, the college, the university! Take our athletes! The amount of human energy harnessed up in this arena of activity is incalculable. Could equally attractive exercises be invented that would have a bearing on patriotism and defence? I know not but teachers ought to know. The scout movement, the cadet movement, the first aid movement, were all the opening of an immense military perspective. There need never be the actual use of guns, and yet all boys and girls would be potentially soldiers, because multitudes would move with the ease and grace of the individual. That would be half the hassle and would prepare them for hassle. "Trust in God and keep your powder dry" is a witticism, a cynicism and a truth. It would mean