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The Old Militia Law of Canada, The New Militia Laws of Australia and New Zealand, and Lord Kitchener's Report.

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Events in connection with reorganization of the Militia within the British Empire are moving so rapidly that one might well hesitate before placing pen to paper on the subject, especially when great modern soldiers like Lord Kitchener and Sir John French are advising the over-seas Dominions of the Empire. It may, however, not be out of place to consider at this juncture the respective Militia Laws as they exist to-day in Australia and New Zealand and as they existed in Canada more than a hundred years ago, and their bearing on the position.

Lord Kitchener found in the Southern Seas a Commonwealth and a Dominion which had just adopted systems of naval and military training quite in line with modern progressive thought ; but Sir John French, on the other hand, has no doubt been much handicapped by discovering that the present military training system in Canada is founded on the voluntary or mercenary basis, and that in the country at large there is complete indifference to the matter of defence, and a general marked disinclination to make personal self-sacrifice in connection therewith.

When, in 1906, I had the honour of reading a paper before the Institute on "Switzerland's Citizen Soldierly — a military model for Canada" — I was unaware of the full force of the old Canadian Militia Law, and of the important fact that for many years we had here in Canada the system of military service now existing in Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and most other

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