

able-bodied male between the ages of sixteen and sixty, is still the fundamental principle of English law, both common law and statute law. It has been obscured by the pernicious voluntary principle, which, in the much-abused name of liberty, has shifted a universal national duty upon the shoulders of the patriotic few. But it has never been revoked or repudiated.

It is not national service, but the voluntary system, that is un-English and unhistoric. The Territorial army dates from 1908; the volunteers from 1859; the regular army itself only from 1645. But for a millennium before the oldest of them the ancient defence of England was the Nation in Arms. When will it be so again?

EMPLOYMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

A statement in an Amsterdam newspaper that the French prisoners of war working in the coal mines have gone on strike, on the ground that the work which they had been ordered to perform was against the interest of their country, will call attention to the principles of international morality in reference to the employment of prisoners of war. It is indisputable that such prisoners may be employed at work not unsuited to their condition and not directly hostile to their own army or country, and this Bluntschli construes into an authorization for their employment on distant fortifications—a claim properly condemned on principle. Prisoners should not be employed to strengthen their captor's military position, for this tends to release a corresponding number of his soldiers for service at the front. The more modern practice confines their labour to what contributes to their own welfare. The Hague rules authorize a State to utilize the labour of prisoners of war according to their rank and aptitude. Their tasks shall not be excessive and shall have nothing to do with military operation. Prisoners may be authorized to work for the public service for private persons, or on their own account and work done for the State shall be paid for according to the tariffs in force for soldiers of the national