

time to take the field, and form a rallying body for the rest. The wisdom of this scheme was well tried in 1812, when nearly the entire militia force was ready to take the field in defence of their country in from 12 to 24 hours after the declaration of war." And again:

"1854.—In March of this year we find the first movement towards establishing a volunteer organization, which afterwards entirely supplanted the old militia, although we doubt if the results of the movements has paid us good interest on the money spent over its institution, as we are still without the efficient home army of 1794, 1812 or even 1837."

INTEREST OF RURAL POPULATION.

The rural portions of the population take perhaps more interest in annual military training than any other portion of the people, even if they do not need the purely physical side of it as much as those who are town or city bred. The life in the country proper is comparatively lonely, and the descendants of those who met together in days gone by, in the annual gathering of the old sedentary militia, remember their fathers or grandfathers telling with what pleasure they looked forward to the May muster when they would meet together.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND THE FIRST IN THE EMPIRE.

Australia has the honour of being the first of the nations within the British Empire to adopt for present requirements the principle of patriotic, unpaid, or universal naval or military training. Their original Act of Parliament to this end was assented to 13th Dec., 1900, and amendments were also passed in 1910 after Lord Kitchener's report. The extracts reproduced hereafter, of both the Australia and New Zealand defence, will serve to show the similarity of the spirit which underlies them and that of the old Canadian Act of 1808. I have, however, given the new Australian and New Zealand Acts more fully than the old Canadian one, because, being modern, and at present in force, the detail will appeal more strongly to our members.

AUSTRALIA, 1910.

EXTRACTS FROM AUSTRALIA NAVAL AND MILITARY DEFENCE ACT 1903, 1903, 1910.

PROMOTIONS.

"11A—All promotions in the Citizens' Forces to the rank of officer and N. C. O. shall be from those who have served in the ranks of the Citizens' Forces and the appointments and promo-