

the public safety any person whatever by virtue of the prerogative as extended in times of war, the court was not in sympathy with the contention of the Solicitor-General, and the use of the prerogative would virtually overrule the Habeas Corpus Acts as against the Crown in times of war. It can only be defended by extending to unwarrantable lengths the much-criticized rule laid down by the Judicial Committee in *Ex parte Marais* (1902), A.C. 109, that while a country is the scene of war the civil courts, although sitting in the theatre of military operations, cannot question the acts of courts martial until the war has terminated. To justify such an extension would be to destroy the distinction between constitutional and despotic Government.—*Solicitors' Journal*.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER IN ENGLAND.

National registration is now more or less completed, if we may judge from the fact that members of the public are beginning to receive their registration certificates. This document is not unlike a passport; it contains a space for the signature of the holder, so that it may prove useful for purposes of identification. Indeed, just as at present, in a certain class of cases, the police ask persons whose movements they are investigating to produce their National Insurance cards, so probably these new certificates will gradually come to be relied on in law and business as a ready means of proving or disproving identity. In this, of course, they resemble a passport. It is also understood that they will be used to assist recruiting officers in their efforts to make a thorough canvass of all eligible persons in their districts. Whether or not they will be used in the immediate future as one instrument in an attempt to introduce compulsory service no one can say. But such introduction, we believe, is only possible by Act of Parliament, and to a limited degree by suspension of the Ballot Act. The common law prerogative right of levy *en masse*, even if it still exists, appears to arise only in the case of sudden invasion or dangerous rebellion (*Broadford's case*, 1743, Foster 154 *et seq.*). The right of the pressgang as a means of naval recruiting, of course, although doubtless still good law, applies only as against seamen, or, at most, as against the inhabitants of a seaport town.—*Solicitors' Journal*.