

placed in any critical circumstances or surrounded by any hostile neighbours to warrant its adoption. It exists to-day among some European nations, such as in Germany, because geographical position renders it necessary; wherever it exists it involves an immense burden on the people. The law enjoining this universal force in Germany is said to depend exclusively on the people and not on any particular class, and it is to this union among the people that Germany owes her present position in the world.

Now, the effects resulting from conscription, where it is in force, have opened up avenues of vice to many a young man. What will make a young man lose his own individuality more quickly than to compel him to go into barracks, to associate with all classes of men, and realize when all is over he is good for nothing. This fact is admitted by many a Frenchman to-day.

It always took a long time to become proficient in the use of firearms, and it takes ten times as long nowadays, since military tactics have changed considerably. I ask you then: How can the man specialize in any branch of knowledge if he is obliged to spend the greater part of his time at military exercises?

It is not the number of men that count in national defence, but the courage in soldiers and those skilled in the use of war instruments. We have a very striking example of this in the late South African War. Here we have the small forces of the Boers contending against the superior forces of Britain and keeping them at bay for almost three years. The main reason why they maintained their ground so well was due to the fact that they excelled in the use of the modern quick-firing rifles and in trench building.

Again, since conscription would impose an immense burden on every individual, we maintain that to advocate such a system is nothing more nor less than to advocate the revival of a law which stands blotted out in the military regulations of Great Britain and her colonies, to advocate a system which was tried in both countries, under different circumstances and at different times, and in every case failed.

The liberties which we enjoy to-day, and the progress which we are making, could never have been obtained but for the smallness of the British army. Since the introduction of Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights, a British subject is enjoying that spirit of freedom which is second to none the world over, and all through this stage which we regard as the formative stage of that peculiar liberty, we find everywhere manifest weakening of the powers of compulsion and a corresponding strengthening