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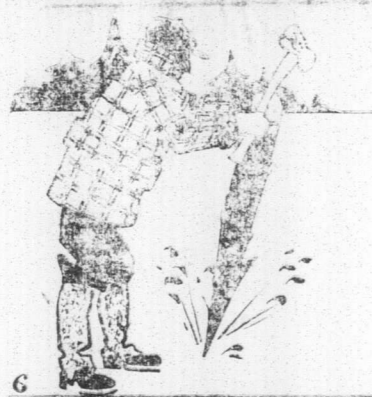
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SYSTEM OF CONSCRIPTION IN AUSTRALIA

From Their Twelfth Year Youths Must Give Attention to Fitness.

PROVIDED WITH CADET UNIFORM

Each Man Must Obtain Twelve Annual Certificates of Proficiency Before Discharge.

(From Harper's Weekly.)
It now seems certain that one of the important tasks which will confront the next Congress, is to see that of defeating a proposition to establish a system of compulsory military training in the United States. This proposal may be disguised under terms such as "university training" or "cadet service," but the compulsory service stipulation will be there and it will be upon this feature that discussion will revolve.

The American people will not accept the principle of enforced military service in time of peace. This is undeniably a fact. Yet it is also a fact that the idea that compulsory training is the only sure avenue of military preparedness has gained ground rapidly since the outbreak of the war in Europe. Its adherents in this country point frequently to the system now in operation in Australia—a system which has demonstrated its military effectiveness, and one which in the eyes of those favoring its application to the United States, does not in any way conflict with the ideals of democracy, nor interfere with the processes of a democratic form of government.

Just how far the group of energetic and enthusiastic Americans who hold to this view are going to be able to get with their propaganda, will probably be very definitely determined at the next session of the national legislature. In the interim, "The Australian system" will be a thing of increasing interest. Just what is it?

In Australia they refer to the product as the "C.M.F." That is, the Commonwealth Military Force. Politically, the outstanding feature of the "C.M.F." is that it was called into being by a Labor Ministry. The Australian Prime Minister who promulgated the Defence Bill upon which the present system was built was an ex-colonial miner; the Minister of Defence was a carpenter.

The Australian system is of comparatively recent growth. The actual date of the first movement toward adequate preparedness was in 1903, shortly after the close of the Boer War in which a few Australian troops had distinguished themselves by hard fighting.

In 1870 all British troops had been withdrawn and in their place were formed small groups of permanent professional forces around which it was intended to build an organization of citizen soldiery. An effort was made to operate the scheme successfully by means of a partly-paid militia, the members of which voluntarily offered themselves for service. In conjunction with this militia there was tried a few years later a military instruction in school for boys. No provision was made for the youth who did not attend school.

The step taken at the close of the Boer War was the opening of an opportunity for military training for any citizen of proper age and physical condition who desired it. The experiment of Plattsburg, U.S.A., in 1915, is essentially the Australian experiment in 1903.

Whether because of poor administration or lack of incentive, the system established in 1903 was found to be so unsatisfactory that in 1909 a law was passed making military training compulsory. This law did not become operative until June 30, 1911.

During the intervening time enlistment continued to be voluntary. Both the military and the naval strength were divided into permanent and citizen organizations. The permanent bodies were called the "Reserve" and the citizen bodies were designated as volunteers. They were not paid and were provided with a reserve organization made up of men who had seen active service and members of the national rifle club.

When the new law went into effect in 1911, even with the preparation that had been made for enforcing its provisions, the departure from the old theories of national defence was a most radical one. The male citizens of Australia awoke to the fact that from the age of eighteen to the age of sixty, they were members of the army defence and bound to military service should war come, but only within the limits of Australia. Those citizens between twelve and twenty-six years of age, except those who could take advantage of the exemptions in the Defence Act, found themselves compelled to undergo certain prescribed

periods of military training in the several branches of service. Up to June 1, 1915, approximately 90,000 Australians had been made ready for active service in the European war, and between 50,000 and 60,000 had actually been despatched to some part of the Allied lines.

It is a fact recognized by military authorities here and abroad that the Australians need less and receive less rationing because of their battle than any other colonial troops which are placed at England's disposal. Two important factors go into this fact—marksmanship and muscle fitness. The Australian system of defence was worked out under the advice and counsel of Lord Kitchener. It is natural therefore, that the British passion for marksmanship should find its counterpart in the C.M.F. Commenting on this point, a recent writer said this:

Military experts, comparing the rifle fire of the soldiers of the European front in the present war, invariably comment on the marked superiority of the British over the German riflemen. They agree that this superiority is due to the fact that the German has his target before he pulls the trigger. Before the missile leaves its chamber Tommy Atkins is pretty sure on the one thing that the German has the very faint notion about—where death in a steel jacket is going to. Likewise, those theories once propounded by profound students of things military, that rifle-fire and other forms of close-range killing would play a very small part in modern warfare, have been exploded by what is happening every day in Europe.

The Australian troops have demonstrated, every time they have been called up for the hardest sort of service, in the Dardanelles region and at other points where fighting has been particularly severe, to what a great extent marksmanship and muscle-fitness go together in the making of efficient units.

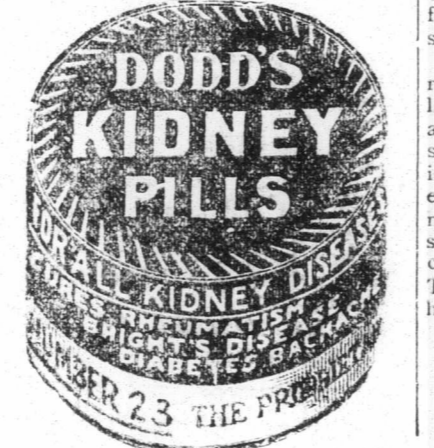
From the time that he reaches July of his sixth year, every Australian youth who has been found to be morally, mentally and physically fit to become a cadet soldier is forced to give strict attention to this matter of muscle-fitness. At the time that he enters the ranks of the 12-year-old cadets, he receives from his government an outfit of soldier's clothes, which includes shirt, puttees, breeches, and shoes. Ninety hours out of each year for two consecutive years he devotes to military training. If he passes the prescribed test at the end of each of the first two years, he is allowed to become a senior cadet. His military outfit lasts for four years. Each year he must receive not less than four 4-hour drills, twelve 2-hour drills, and twenty-four 1-hour drills. His equipment is extended to include a cadet rifle and belt, and if he has not received a stipulated stipulated point he is allowed to take part in target practice with a service rifle. During the senior cadet's four years his instruction progresses from the manual of arms and close-order drill into open-order exercises, and the study of minor tactics. Through the periods of both his junior and senior cadetships his natural tendencies are watched, and encouraged, so far as possible, toward the branch of the service in which he seems to take the strongest interest.

At nineteen, provided he has passed successfully each year's examination, the Australian cadet becomes a member of the citizen army. He is supplied by the Government with a complete war outfit, including two woollen shirts, two pair of breeches, an overcoat, a hat, a sleeping-bag, two pair of leggings, two pairs of shoes, a kit pack, service rifle and bayonet. Each year, until he is twenty-six, he must present himself for not less than sixteen days of training, of which eight must be in camps of continuous construction. Attendance at one muster parade is all that is required of him during his last year. When he is discharged from the year's work, he must be repeated until the examination is successfully met. While the Australian's active service ends at twenty-six, it is not until he is sixty that he ceases to be subject to a call to arms in time of war.

There are these exemptions under the Australian Defence Act: Persons physically, mentally or morally unfit; members and officers of Parliament; judges, police, prison employees, ministers of religion, lighthouse keepers and physicians and nurses of public hospitals. The Governor-General may, by proclamation vary or extend these exemptions, or he may exempt specific areas. Persons whose religion or belief prohibits them from bearing arms may be exempted from the service in the combatant branches, but are liable for service in the other departments, the burden of proof resting on the person claiming exemption.

A heavy fine is provided for use against the employer who interferes or attempts to interfere with the military service of an employee, though the employer is not required to pay the employee while the latter is on duty. The parent or guardian who fails or refuses to register a son or ward who is of the proper age for service in the cadet ranks is also subject to fine.

This is the Australian system. Already it has produced soldiers in large numbers so superior in body and in military knowledge as to be selected for service where the fighting has been the most violent. It is expected that the system under normal conditions, will maintain constantly a defensive force of 150,000 cadets and 120,000 citizen-soldiers. The annual cost is in the neighborhood of \$15,000,000.



Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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A white paper issued recently shows the huge sum still invested by depositors with the old Trustee Savings Bank, notwithstanding the competition of the Post Office Banks. At the end of November, 1914, 1,917,944 depositors had \$53,943,270 at their credit. In proportion to its population, Scotland had by far the largest number of depositors. The number of accounts open was 618,533, and the deposits £20,538,432. Against this England had 1,224,976 depositors and £30,162,126 invested. In the matter of expense management Scotland stands lowest, for while in England the rate per hundred pounds of the investments was 6s. 6d. in Scotland it was only 5s. 3d.

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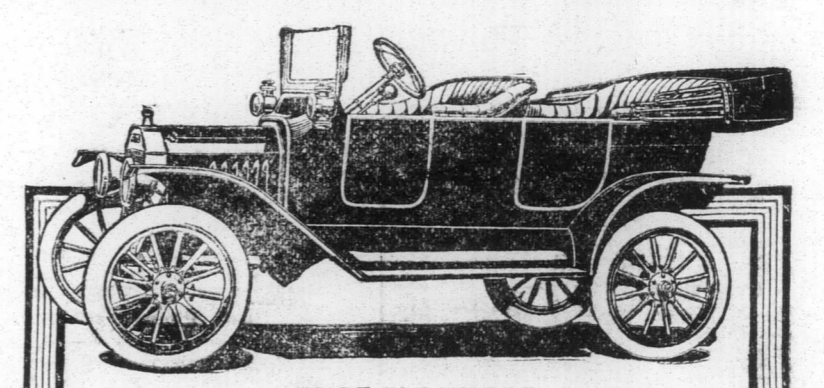
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