

law.'” Several illustrations of this point are given. “In 1871 when the Chicago fire had been raging for nearly two days, and the city government had become exhausted in its efforts to repress the flames . . . General Sheridan was placed in command. . . . He placed powder in the basements of a row of buildings two squares long, and at a given signal blew up and destroyed the buildings with their contents. Those buildings and their contents were private property. . . . The owners were not asked to consent, and their objections were unheeded. Their property was destroyed, and there was no provision of law by which any compensation could be recovered. This action was authorized and justified by the law of public necessity.”

“In 1863 the Government of the United States needed men for military duty. A draft was ordered in Indiana. . . . Among those drafted was a poor man, who, when notified, said: ‘Surely the government will not make me leave my feeble wife and three little children and go into the army. I have no way of providing for them while I am gone, and I have no money to hire a substitute.’ However touching such an appeal it could not be regarded.” He was killed in battle and the sick wife and little children had to be cared for by strangers. It seems hard. “But when the government has battles to fight, neither inconvenience, personal hazard, nor the needs of a family can excuse any man from its call to arms.”

Several years ago when there was an epidemic of small-pox in Montreal and Toronto, I was going by train from Hamilton to St. Catharines. Not long after leaving Hamilton a doctor from the States came into the car and asked one passenger after another if they were going across the line. If the answer was in the affirmative the next question was, “Have you been vaccinated?” If yes, “Have you a certificate to that effect?” If no, “Let me see your arm?” If the party objected, the reply was, “You cannot go across the line till I have the evidence showing that you have been vaccinated.” If the passenger said he had not been vaccinated the answer was, “Then you cannot enter the United States.” “But I am an American citizen returning home, or I have very important business in