mortal man could devise a voluntary defence system for this country which would not penalize and handi-cap the patriotic and the conscientious in life's race, besides unfairly saddling them with the burden of protecting not alone their native land, but the unpatriotic, the idle, the ignorant, and the indifferent

among their fellows.

Putting aside the question of my lack of knowledge and ability, it would obviously be impossible for me even to mention all the pressing aspects of the question tonight. I fear I have occupied too much time already. ("No, no!") One or two other points, however, I would like just to name for your consideration in passing. Take the financial aspect, for example. I noticed in my daily paper on Saturday that a memorial sign by no fewer than 136—136 supporters of the present government—had been presented to the prime minister appealing for further reductions of expenditure upon the army and navy. The memorialists pointed out that this year's reamong their fellows. The memorialists pointed out that this year's reduction of nearly a million and a half in the case of the navy and well over two millions sterling in the case of the army could not be traced to any actual change of policy initiated by this government, and maintained that, despite these reductions, the rate of expenditure was excessive and ought to come down further

They probably took into account certain facts from which we cannot escape, gentlemen, because they are facts; as, for instance, that whereas the cost to this country of its soldiers per head in the year 1810 was £53 6s., in 1905 it was £127. They were doubtless thinking also of the ugly fact that the cost to Britain of her army is today, per head of that army, more than three times the cost of Germany's army, nearly four times that of France, and five times that of Austriatimes that of France, and five times that of Austria-Hungary. It is not alone inadequacy that we have to face, gentlemen, in the matter of our voluntary defences; it is monstrous extravagance—the sort of extravagance which maddens a people who find the competition of life severe, and leads them to seek relief in all sorts of quack remedies of a deleterious sort, such as Socialism.

Under the head of moral aspects of the question of universal military training. I wish there were time

universal military training, I wish there were time for me to speak of national temperance, national con-tinence, national thrift, national sobriety, in the broadest sense of that word. I am not trying to suggest that military training makes angels of men; but I do suggest, gentlemen, that the true meaning of the bhrase about cleanliness being next to godliness is that fitness is next to godliness—that the man who is thoroughly fit—cleanly in that broad sense—is likely to be very much nearer to godliness than the man who is not; than the man who has never known discipline in any form, than the man whose citizen sense of duty has never been awakened by disciplined training un-der his country's colors.

My lords and gentlemen, this thing touches our honor and morality as a people. I verily believe it notion and morality as a people. I verily believe it touches the future of our mere existence as an Empire. Mafeking night in London was, perhaps, as bad a business, nationally, as the black month we all remember at an earlier stage of the war.

Our people need the moral stay of military training as sorely as the nation needs their defensive ability: more sorely. I venture to say than ever they needed.

ity; more sorely, I venture to say, than ever they needed board-school teaching when we made that compul-sory. Surely, then, in the interests of justice, pru-dence, and humanity; surely, then, out of consideration for the duty that we owe to our God, to our King, and to our race, we should strive, each in his degree, to bring about those administrative measures which will make practical military training an integral part of the education which the State wisely makes essential and obligatory for every single citizen among us. Just one other word, in thanking you for the courtesy with which you have listened to me. If I have unwittingly offended against any of your scruples, or rules, or customs, I beg you to believe that this has been due solety to my ignorance. We interest the state of the solety to my ignorance.

rules, or customs, I beg you to believe that this has been due solely to my ignorance. My intentions, I assure you, have been amiable enough; for they were simply, with the greatest respect and deference to my elders and betters in the study of this great question, to place before you the point of view of an ordinary member of the outside public. (Hear, hear and loud applause.) Mr. L. Cope Cornford: Lord Erroll and Gentle-

men,-It is with great diffidence I rise to address so distinguished an assembly, and, as usual on these casions, I preface my remarks by explaining that I have really no right to speak at all. If I might be allowed a few words from the naval point of view, I would beg leave to say that my only title is that I have been a close student of naval affairs for some

ow Mr. Dawson's address has dealt, in a most admirable manner, with the salient aspects of the question before us tonight; but, if I may say so, he assumes a very important point. He took it for granted sumes a very important point. He took it for granted that the duty of a citizen was to defend his country. Yes; but how is the citizen to knew that it is his duty to defend his country? The exponents of public opinion are, if I may quote from Colonel Sturmy-Cave, suffering very largely from the disease diagnosed by the Colonel as Aqua Cerunea. Not being a scholar, I asked a friend to interpret that phrase, and he said it meant "The Blue Water School." If the theories of the "Blue Water School" are correct, there is not the slightest necessity for any other service except a small regular army. That is a very important point. Mr. Balfour has given his adhesion, body and bones, to the "Blue Water School." Lord Lovat, I think, in this room has explained to you that Mr. Balfour had spoken; and Lord Lovat, of course, was not publicly reported. four had spoken; and Lord Lovat, of course, was not publicly reported

Now, may I for a few moments put before you nat I conceive to be the "Blue Water School" theory, what I conceive to be the "Blue Water School" theory, which, if it is correct, relieves us from anxiety concerning the defence of this country? The "Blue Water School" says: "You have your navy, which must be kept up to the Two-Power Standard. Its business is to seek out and destroy the enemy's fleet wherever it may be found. You will then have command of the sea. If you have command of the sea, no invasion

may be found. You will then have command of the sea. If you have command of the sea, no invasion can touch these shores." All right!

Then there was the "Dinghy theory." There was first of all the "Raid theory." I think that was limited to 70,000 men; but that eventually came down to a Dinghy. You do not require to be a nation in arms to be defended against a Dinghy. Let us try for a moment to think what the theory of the "Blue Water School" means. In the first place, it is an enormous gamble; it assumes that the navy can be in two School" means. In the first place, it is an enormous gamble; it assumes that the navy can be in two places at once and always victorious. Well, the British navy has that reputation, I know, but it was gained in very different circumstances from those which we have today. The "Blue Water School" base their conclusions upon historical instances drawn from the Napoleonic wars. Napoleon massed a large number of transports and troops on the shores of France, waiting to get across the Channel. But he had to wait for our ships to be out of the way and for the wind and tide to be in his favor. That was before the age of steam. before the age of steam.

Lord Lovat in this room pointed out that on Febru-Lord Lovat in this room pointed out that on Februof British battleships within three days' sail of Engary 13th of this year there was a very small number
land. Therefore, what becomes of the "Blue Water
School" theory? Are your battleships never to go on
manoeuvres? Unless you are certain that your ships
can be ranged round these shores, what becomes of
that theory?

Take a simple example. Suppose Australia was Take a simple example. Suppose Australia was threatened; we will not arouse susceptibilities, so we will say by a large fleet. Suppose our navy had to go there. What would become of these shores then You might suppose a dozen things. I am not a strategist, but it is perfectly obvious that the navy might be called away they might be away by accident. All be called away; they might be away by accident. All

sorts of things might happen.

And it is upon the whole hypothesis that And it is upon the whole hypothesis that such emergencies can never happen that the "Blue Water School" bases its theory, that seems to me the most enormous gamble with fortune that you can imagine. And, again, the "Blue Water School" seems to be entirely oblivious of the fact that we are dealing not with these islands alone, but with the British control. with these islands alone, but with the British empire. You may remember Lord Curzon's address on frontiers the other day. He described the thousands of miles of undefended frontiers which cannot be defended by hetileships. fended by battleships.

fended by battleships.

Where are the men to guard those frontiers? Are we only to think of these islands? The "Blue Water School," I have not the slightest hesitation in saying, is a Little England School. (Hear, hear.)

We must talk straight on these questions. The "Blue Water School" assumes that we have only got to look after our own skins in these little islands.

My second point is that the columns of the Times and other papers are taken up by arguments on the

My second point is that the columns of the Times and other papers are taken up by arguments on the other side, and they seem to be demolished by one another. I appeal to reason and common-sense. Never mind experts and how many guns and tons there are. It is a question of common-sense. Let us take the psychological point of view. Let us suppose a little nation—little in size but great in numbers—brought up in the belief that the sea balongs to them. brought up in the belief that the sea belongs to them,

and that if they put enough ships on the sea they are

and that it they put enough ships on the sea they are therefore immune from all invasion.

Let us suppose they say "This is very convenient. We will pay for this big navy if you will leave us in peace to make money."

Then you have a large body of sea mercenaries who are divorced from the national life. Everyone likes a sailor—he is picturesque and so on—but he is divorced from national life.

divorced from national life.

This little nation is also told that they must have a small army, small but perfect, for special use in expeditions and in case of invasion. If these things come at the same time there is a difficulty. a hitch . . . Well, never mind, there are the volun-

As for the perfect little army, they pay for that too—and pay high—and they are told that if they pay for these two things they are perfectly safe. They are told that by statesmen and other great people who know about it. They have been told it for years until they believe it. Thus you create two bodies of mercenaries. The army enlists those mercenaries by reason, as Mr. Dawson says, of their "eco necessities." When a man cannot get another job he goes to the army. It is the only thing he can do. What happens? The army takes the best years of his life, and then sends him back to the street again. He has nothing to do with us. He is a mercenary!

The little nation, brought up in these tenets, when

it comes to look at the position says, "If I really fac-ed these facts I should feel uncomfortable." What is the natural result? "I must invent some way of preerving my self-respect. Therefore I will despise these people; I will say, "The common soldier is unfit for my distinguished society.

Let me take a very simple instance. My cook is engaged to a corporal in the Guards. (Laughter.) She had a great objection to him because he was a soldier. The poor chap had to be a soldier—owing to a little trouble in the milk business. He was a good soldier; but so strong was her objection to his good soldier; but so strong was her objection to his trade or profession that she saild he must give it up at the end of his three years. (Laughter.) I told her he was a fine chap. He told me she objected to the red coat. "She does not like to be seen with me when I am wearing a red coat." Actually she was ashamed of his wearing the King's coat! She is not (as it happens) a fool, and she voices the opinion of thousands of recome. They are ashamed of the King's thousands of people. They are ashamed of the King's coat. Why do you think she has now consented to his staying in the army? Because he has been promoted and is now allowed to wear a grey overcoat!
(Laughter.) It is a fact.

I say, gentlemen, that state of things is radically

rotten. I say that until the soldiers are part of the nation we shall never be any better; and so we come back to the point that we may have to defend ourback to the point that we may have to defend our selves, because we are actually in danger if we do not. (Hear, hear.) I do not assume that point, as Mr. Dawson did. I appeal to every evidence on the subject. I appeal to common-sense. We are not in a subject. I appeal to common-sense. We condition of national security until that fact is recognized. Why is it not recognized.

nized Because the politicians dare not face it. I will tell you why they will not. Because there is an extraordinary delusion about nowadays called demo-cracy. Everyone says "democracy" with a solem air, a lowering of the voice, as if he was in church. We are not in a democratic age; we only think we are. Who rules this country—democrats, demagogues, or who? Aristocrats! partly because they are there, and partly because they are fit to. (Lowd leaves ly because they are fit to. (Loud laugh ly because they are fit to. (Loud laughter.) Sometimes one and sometimes the other. And yet our politicians pretend all the time that we are a democratic country. Unless they get a "mandate" they won't do anything. They won't ask for a "mandate" for it! (Laughter.) That is what it comes to. Mr. Dawson is perfectly right; they are afraid of the delusion called democracy. That is all delusion called democracy. That is all. Gentlemen, as members of the National Defence Association, I do ask you earnestly to disabuse your minds of this silly delusion of democracy. There is a great mass of people owning votes, and therefore political power, who are simply anxious to be told what they ought to do. If you tell them that you will give them something you think they want they don't believe you. They say, "Oh, yes, I know. You want something out of it." But if you tell them what they it." But if you tell them what they ought to do, they will recognize it. (Hear, hear.) If the day comes when they won't recognize it, well—it is all over. But it is not all over yet. If, in the time of the South African War, Mr. Brodrick had had the pluck—I speak en-tirely from the service point of view—if he had had the pluck to introduce a bill for compulsory service he would have carried it. He did not do it. He missed the opportunity. That opportunity still waits, and waits not only for Mr. Dawson's ethical reasons, but as an absolute matter of necessity-and here we are hanging in the wind.

Gentlemen, you have to deal with a nation to which as a great writer has said, nothing will make any difference until they behold the tents of an invading army encamped in Piccadilly

Colonel T. S. Cave: My Lord and entlemen,—We have listened tonight to a very able paper and a very able speech, full of great interest, but I cannot, help thinking that we run some danger of the thesis of compulsory service always cropping up, in much the same way as King Charles's head cropped up in a cer-

tain petition. In the second place, although I am very much of opinion that the physical and disciplinary training of compulsory service would certainly be an excellent thing for the manhood of the nation, it is a question whether it would be altogether a good thing for an efficient fighting force. This depends entirely, it seems to me, upon the proportion of unwilling men that you are going to compel to come into your military force. (Hear, hear.) I am very much afraid that at the present moment there would be a very large proportion of unwilling men if you had universal compulsory training. Therefore, wheth-er we have compulsory or voluntary training, the ob-ject before this Association should be to try and so educate our fellow-men as to make them all willing and then it does not matter whether you call it enlistment, enrolment, or whether you call it compul-sory; if they are all willing they will make good sol-diers. (Hear, hear.) Now the lecturer, in reading his paper, asked one or two rather potent questions about the past which have, I think, a very interesting bearing on the future. He asked if the people had had any opportunity hitherto to show that they realized their duty of doing something for the defence of the country. I think he was of opinion that they have not. I am of opinion that they have had a very good oportunity of realizing such a desire in the Auxiliary Forces, especially in that branch to which I have the honor to belong; and many of them have, in different degrees, availed themselves of that op-portunity. The question really before us at this par-ticular moment is why more of them have not availed themselves of that opportunity, and why is it some of those who have have not so fully availed themselves of it as to take the greatest advantage of it. That is of importance to us, because it has a very distinct bearing on the immediate future.

Now I cannot help thinking that we can fairly well

Now I cannot neight minking that we can fairly well appreciate what the reasons have been that have led many to neglect their duty, especially among what we sometimes call the "classes." There are many young men in this country who have plenty of time for all sorts of amusements and recreations, but who have not found the time to serve in the Auxiliary Forces. There are a good many who have found as not found the time to serve in the Auxiliary Forces. There are a good many who have found a certain proportion of time to serve in the Auxiliary Forces, but who have not devoted whole-hearted enthusiasm to it. If we can find the reasons why this has been we may do some good with regard to the immediate

Now, as Mr. Cornford pointed out, one of the greatest reasons is this exaggerated thesis of the "Blue Water School." He has dealt with that so well "Blue Water School." He has dealt with that so well that I need say no more about it. But there is another reason, and that is that the services of those who have devoted themselves to it, more or less thoroughly, have not been thoroughly appreciated. I do not think the Press, which is a very potent influence in this country has thoroughly appreciated the ence in this country, has thoroughly appreciated the efforts of those who have done their best. I do not think that some of the politicians have thoroughly appreciated it, at any rate judging by their speeches and by their actions.

I should say distinctly they have been more

posed to depreciate it than to appreciate it. I do not

think that even some of the officers have themselves think that even some of the officers have themselves thoroughly appreciated their own and their comrades' services. I have constantly heard—and I do now constantly hear, especially among those who have this thesis of compulsory service before them—strong depreciation of the Auxiliary Forces. When I hear a commanding officer, or an officer who has served in the Auxiliary Forces, especially in the volunteer force, get up and find all sorts of faults with that force, I think that he is more largely responsible for the lack of appreciation than the politician and the outside critic.

or appreciation than the politician and the outside critic.

I do hope that with regard to the scheme which is before us, and which we have this day passed a resolution to do all that we can to support, that all those who are concerned in it, or who are already in the Auxiliary Forces, will do all they can to make it efficient and to appreciate the value of the force themselves. There are other factors besides the actual number of hours, or days, or weeks, or years that a man has to serve. There is the spirit of confidence which exists within the forces, and the organization which makes men co-operate with each to carry out the will of their superiors. There is the spirit of patriotism, which is really the greatest factor in the problem of military efficiency.

We have seen recently a very great and marvellous campaign carried out by two nations, both of whom had compulsory service; that is to say, the manhood of each country was compelled to serve in the ranks. In both instances it has been called compulsory, but in one case it was to all intents and purposes voluntary, for every man was perfectly willing to serve

in one case it was to all intents and purposes voluntary, for every man was perfectly willing to serve. Every Japanese citizen thought it a disgrace if he were rejected. They had universal service such as I should like to see here—integral because here.

were rejected. They had universal service such as I should like to see here—universal because every man desires to serve. They had, comparatively speaking, a very brief training. All of you, I dare say, have read in General Hamilton's book how a Japanese officer observed to him that they could make a first-rate soldier out of the Jap in three weeks.

Now, the Russians had compulsory service, and each man served with the colors for four years; consequently, the amount of training that they had had was, infinitely more than the Japanese had. Yet, when these two forces met, the Japanese were superior because of the psychological factor in their efficiency. They had confidence in themselves, in each other, in their officers, and, above all, a devotion and loyalty to the nation and a belief in their cause.

If this Association can promote such a feeling, we have the service of the promote of the population of the population of the promote of the promote such a feeling. If this Association can promote such a feeling such patriotic enthusiasm, national sentiment, and

such patriotic enthusiasm, national sentiment, and such confidence in each other and in their cause, they will really do better—especially in the immediate future—than by always running off on the redherring scent of compulsory service. (Hear, hear.)

Colonel Seely, M.P.: My Lord and Gentlemen—
The politicians have had their knocks from all sides this evening, and I am interested to see that Mr. Cornford has left the room. May I say one word to him in his absence? Never have I had a cook in my service who refused to marry a soldier. Never have



Mr. A. J. Dawson

I had anyone in my service who regarded the red coat as derogatory. Did Mr. Cornford dismiss his cook? Not he. She was a good cook! But, sir, in all seriousness I would say to the lecturer, whose lecture I enjoyed immensely, that I agree with much that he said, but I differ profoundly from his view. lecture I enjoyed immensely, that I agree with much that he said, but I differ profoundly from his view that what is wrong is the heart of the people. I speak with some knowledge, because any man who has fought elections knows something of what people approve and disapprove. The lecturer thinks the people of this country are averse to military service, and that the enemy we have to fight is the antimilitarist. I say to him, with great respect, it is an entire delusion; they are a negligible quantity—not more than one in a thousand.

The other day there was a great knowledge.

The other day there was a great banquet at the Guildhall. Sir John Fisher, taking the country as he finds it—with the armed services as we find them—and dealing not only with naval, but with military problems, says, speaking for those on whom our safe-ty depends: "What I say to my countrymen is, 'Sleep quiet in your beds,' and after those words were said I find, in all the reports, loud and prolonged cheers.

Now, I suggest to him that, while it is absolutely Now, I suggest to him that, while it is absolutely true in his view, and in mine, and in that of everyone here, that the safety of the country depends on the readiness of every man to serve in her cause, the enemy is not the anti-militarist, whom I have never been able to find; the enemy is this accursed school that tells us that as long as there is water, instead of land, between the frontiers of a country, it is not necessary for any man to serve! (Hear, hear.) If Mr. Dawson is In doubt, and still thinks there is something wrong with the patriotism of the people.

something wrong with the patriotism of the people, may I point out to him that, in spite of this enormous drawback, in spite of the fact that—if we are to believe Sir John Fisher—it is not necessary for anyone to serve in the military forces at home; in spite of that, more men voluntarily take up the burden of training themselves to arms in this country than do in the conscript armies of the Continent. I see him surprised I was when it reconstitution. see him surprised. I was when it was told to

Mr. Dawson: I am afraid I do not quite follow. Will you say that again? Colonel Seeley: A greater proportion of men-voluntarily take up the burden of arms in this coun-try than are compelled to serve in the conscript armies of the Continent. I admit when I was told. armies of the Continent. I admit when I was told this I could not believe it, but having been into the figures myself. I believe it to be literally true. It is a most remarkable fact. Our people are the most patriotic in the world; they long and pant to fight anyone if they can get at them—(laughter)—but they are told the enemy cannot get at them. If you dry up the Channel tomorrow, any possible need for conscription would be at an end; the whole people would spring to arms. I assure him that anyone who is frequently brought into touch with great masses of his countrymen well knows that to be the case. It may be, as some cynics have said that masses of his countrymen well knows that to be the case. It may be, as some cynics have said, that our people are so fierce to fight because they have had so few opportunities in recent years; that war is a horrible thing, and it is only the people who have

felt it who shrink from it. But whatever the reason for it may be, I submit that there is abundant willingness to serve.

ingness to serve.

So I rejoice to belong, as a humble member, to this Association. Our business must be to try to persuade the people to see that it is necessary to serve. They are all anxious and willing to do that, but it is these people who tell us it is by no chance that we can be invaded, that is the enemy.

I have on my left here Colonel Repington, who holds strong views on this subject; I hope he will tell us something of them tonight. I regard him as our one hope and stay. He thinks he can convince not only the people, but the rulers of the country, that ships are not the only defensive force of the Empire.

May I say, in conclusion, that I hope the National Defence Association will meet together, and dine together, and have these first-rate lectures, such as we have had tonight, in order to combat that vicious view which induces people to believe that there is no necessity for their services? (Applause.)

Colonel Watney: I want to touch upon the same point as Colonel Seely, and speak of what he called the ignorance of the people. I think it is because of that very ignorance that we should give them a chance. I do not believe that the voluntary system in this country (and I am talking now of the volunteers) has ever been given a chance, and I think that until it has been given a fair chance it is wrong to talk about compulsory service in any shape or form. There are large numbers who are earning less than 30s a week who have never been taught that it is 30s a week who have never been taught that it is their duty to serve their country, and I believe that members of this Association and those of us in the county associations can, by stumping up and down the country and going into the villages, bring home to them that it is their duty to bear arms.

There are certain things we have to contend with, but we can always discount them by speaking straight out and saying that there are three sets of men in this kingdom that we have to fight against. First of all there is the Peace party. In the country villages you always find a certain number of people, some with influence in their own little set, who belong to the Peace party. It is true they had a pretty good blow after 1851, when, as you all know, no implement of war was allowed to be exhibited, because they thought universal peace would in future always exist in Europe. Within a few years all Europe was ablaze with the Crimean war, and shortly after we had the Indian Mutiny. And they had another set-back after The Hague conference, because, within a very few years after its first sitting, we had the South African war, after its lirst sitting, we had the South African war, and a few years later we had the greatest war which the world had ever seen—the war in Manchuria. Let us always remember that in Queen Victoria's reign of 63 years our soldiers were called upon to fight 83 separate campaigns. So much for the Peace party.

The second class we have to fight is the class of men who never do anything—it does not matter whe-ther it is political, municipal, social, or charitable—unless they are paid for it. It is only by holding these men up to

shame that we can hope to cure them.
But by far the most dangerous party is the "Blue Water School." It is almost impossible to get the working man to realize his country is in danger, and that he should do something to help to defend it, when people of great influence go about saying, It is all right; we have got the havy." It is very difficult to bring home to these working men that these islands might be invaded, and that our fleet might be decoyed away. They say, "A greater than you has just said the reverse."

I do hope we have heard the end of this "Blue Water School."
What, in my opinion, the members of the National Defence Association have to do is to stump up and down our own countries and try to bring home to the poor people their duty as it has never been brought home before, and to give them the chance to serve; and, when we have got them, we must insist upon our politicians encouraging them. There are a great many ways in which they can be encouraged, but letting them off such simple matters as jury service is useless; they must be encouraged in a much better way than that. They must be taught that there is a sort of slur upon any young man who does not belong either to the navy, or the army, or the territorial forces.

Until you get that a recognized thing I am quite certain you will not get the men, but I believe you will get the men if you can tell them that by doing their duty they will not only be doing the best for themselves and their country, but they will be doing something above the men who are not doing their duty. I de not mean to say it would not be right to give them money, or anything like that. give them money, or anything like that, but I want the man who serves his country to feel that he is in a better position socially than the man who shirks his duty, and I believe that can be accomplished. Until the voluntary system is given a fair chance, and in spite of that fair chance shows signs of breaking down, I for one will never talk of com-

Sir Lepel Griffin: Gentlemen,-I will not detain you more than a minute or two. I am in full accord with those mil-itary officers whom we have heard to-night with so much interest. I agree

with all that Colonel Seely has said regarding the "Blue Water" theory, which Mr. Balfour most unfortunately adopted and defended in the House of Commons. We have no political proclivities in this Association, but I would say that, although the present prime minister made most parinotic declarations. most patriotic declarations regarding the inherent duty of every Englishman to serve his country, his government, when there have been proposals to train the youth of England to the use of arms, have discouraged it in the most distinct manner. Is it not the case? They have refused to allow any money which has been raised or voted for schools to be applied to the simple elementary teaching of boys the use of arms, which is an entire contradiction of what ne said on a different occasion and to a different au-

pulsory service.

And with regard to the interesting lecture we have heard, and with which I also desire to express my cordial congratulation to our lecturer, I would like to observe that in the allusions which he made to our colonies of Canada and Australia, to which, as I gather, our lecturer to some extent belongs—am I wrong —(Mr. Dawson: "No; but I have lived there")—we must remember that this burden of National Defence, this obligation which lies upon every citizen, attaches as strongly to them as it does to us. No doubt in South Africa the Colonials acted with great gallantry and distinction; but I say they did no more than their duty. It was nothing which specially required praise that they, as well as ourselves, should come forward and help the Mother Country. It was a natural obligation, a duty which fell upon them; but no one in this room, I should imagine, and certainly I myself do not for a moment admit, that these colonies in any way fulfill the obligation which rests upon them of assisting, in times of peace as well as of war, in the defence of the British empire. I think that when a gentleman who is associated with the colonies comes forward to suggest to Englishmen And with regard to the interesting lecture we have that when a gentleman who is associated with the colonies comes forward to suggest to Englishmen their duty, we must ask that his eloquence and his sincerity and his enthusiasm, which we all acknowledge, may, when he returns to those colonies from which he has come, be used to induce his fellow-colonists to more fully and equitably share this burden, the joint burden of the defence of the British empire. (Hear, hear.)

Colonel Bevington: My Lord and Gentlemen The only reason I wish to say a few words is that I have never heard the case of the duty of the citizen, have never heard the case of the duty of the citizen, to fulfil his obligations of personal service for the defence of his country, stated in such an eloquent and clear manner as has been done tonight. I feel that some of the speeches which have been made after the Paper would seem to rather go against what has been stated by the lecture—that compulsory service is better, more necessary for this country than voluntary service. And it seems to me that there has been a great deal said about the Blue Water School theory; but I think we are all agreed upon that subject. and but I think we are all agreed upon that subject, and therefore I do not think it is necessary, at any rate in this Association, to discuss it any further. We all know that we ought not to expect the navy to remain on the shores of this country to keep out the enemy. It is the duty of the navy to go where the enemy's

fleet is, and to attack it. We ought to be ready, an not to be content with paying a highly trained arms alone, but to take up personal service for the defend of our country. And it can be done in two ways either by voluntary effort or by legislation; and the

either by voluntary effort or by legislation; and the question that it seems to me the lecturer has put before us tonight is "Which of those two methods is the best, by legislation or by diantary effort?"

Well, it seems to me that those gentlemen who have spoken after the lecturer have pronounced in favor of giving the voluntary system a fair trial. They say it has not had a fair trial. I admit that those who have given their services to the Volunteers and Militia have not been treated well—abominably badly, I think—especially the Militia. padly, I think-especially the Militia.

Can a volunteer give sufficient time to be adequately trained? That is the whole proposition, and it seems to me that the lecturer has shown that the exigencies of our commercial life in this country are such that he cannot give that time, and he has said. over and over again, that the Volunteer system puts

over and over again, that the Volunteer system puts a premium upon the unpatriotic.

Well, now, gentlemen, I am quite aware that I joined this Association under a misapprehension. I did not know that this Association had pledged itself to the voluntary system. (A Voice: No, no; it has not.) I am very glad to hear it, because I thought at the meeting this afternoon that it had. I do not early how we arrive at a system of adequate training, whether by a volunteer system or compulsory system; and I agree with Colonel Cave that if the people could take up arms voluntarily it would be far the best solution of the problem. If it were possible, I should entirely agree with Colonels Cave, Watney, and Seely, and everyone else who believes it. I do not believe and everyone else who believes it. I do not believe it is possible, and the reason is the pressure of commercial life. The reason why many men go into the army is because they cannot do anything better. That is the lecturer's point. And when they have served is the lecturer's point. And when they have served their time in the army it sends them into the streets again to starve. I have men coming to me every day who have served in the army as long as twelve years, and who cannot find any work to do.

As for the volunteers: why do they enter into it? Is it for a pastime? Do they enter it for patriotism (A voice: Some do and Vas ves)

(A voice: Some do, and Yes, yes.)

Well, supposing they do enter it for patriotism, how can we train them adequately in the time given to us? How can we train them properly when all that is required of them is ten drills a year—(No, no)—and firing to make themselves efficient.

Well I must say I do not wish to not it down.

Well, I must say I do not wish to put it down as my opinion at all. It would be wrong of me to do so. what is an adequate training? It has been stated by the Commission on the Volunteers, and also by Lord Roberts in the House of Lords and in the City of London, that the training which volunteers get not adequate enough to provide a reserve for the regular army. That is the only reason why I say I do not think we can get adequate training voluntary system; and it seems to me that the lecturer is also of that opinion.

And that is why I think it would be much better

And that is why I think it would be much better for the members of this Association if they would urge upon the country legislative measures to do what everybody seems to think is the right thing to do—i. e., ask for men who are capable of bearing arms to take up arms and to make themselves capable of inching the country of the countr

arms to take up arms and to make themselves capable of fighting in case necessity should arise.

Hon. E. Fiennes: My Lord, I do not wish to detain you or the company, but I think the last speaker must bear in mind that, if we had compulsory service, we should, at the end of the period of service of those who were compelled to serve, have the same amount of starvation and the same problem of men thrown on the streets after their term of service was completed. And we must also remember—some of us who have done our service and who are now become who have done our service and who are now becoming grey-headed, as I am myself—that we must look iently on the apathy of many of our fellow-citizens, and encourage them to do their duty, remembering how we should have failed in ours if we in our day had not received encouragement. Mr. Dawson has read us a remarkable Paper-remarkable because it was eloquent and instructive, and because it was a Paper from which we shall take home many thoughts which will encourage us, who mix with men, in our constituencies to endeavor to get recruits, to stir up men to realize their duty and to come in on a volun tary line.

It is true, as Mr. Dawson tells us, that in the House It is true, as Mr. Dawson tells us, that in the House of Commons last session there was a good deal of cold water thrown in his proposal to introduce rifleshooting into our elementary schools: We know very well that there is a party in the House of Commons which is opposed to too much military training at all. But I think Colonel Seely will bear me out in saying that, in spite of Sir John Fisher, we have, at all events in the House of Commons a majority in favor of a in the House of Commons, a majority in favor of a certain standard of military training, a majority in favor of encouraging military training schools. That majority is not going to be driven by the 113 members, whom we have heard of tonight, who are against this present expenditure on military forces. therefore on this score, at any rate, you may sleep comfortably in your beds:

Gentlemen, there is another body of people besides the politicians that you have got to educate in this country, to induce them to allow their men to serve their country, and those are the employers of labor. If you go, as I had the honor and pleasure of doing recently, to Switzerland you will find that there the employers give every facility; they help in every way they can to give advantages, and to make it as easy as possible, for men to serve in the Swiss National Army. A very few—and those chiefly of German extraction—are opposed to it, but the vast majority go out of their way to assist their men wherever they can. In this country, on the other hand, speaking as a volunteer officer, I know that in some cases difficulties are constantly made by the employers, and their attitude towards anything like a National American Section 1. tional Army has been purely obstructive.

I am sure, gentlemen, you must see that this must be got over; we must look upon it as an evil. and we must have a change. It will not be difficult to bring this change about if we adopt Colonel Watney's plan of going up and down our constituencies or recruiting districts and pointing the real facts out to the employers, as well as to the men, because, after all, the employer can better afford than can the men to give a certain amount of means and time to service. It is in Switzerland, and it can be done here in England. I would ask you to bear that in mind. The Swiss conditions are not altogether comparable with our own. There is a good deal of difference between what the Swiss people get out of their service and what the ordinary person gets out of service in the Yeomany or Volunteers here at home. Those who serve in England go in for it because they like it as a pastime: in Switzerland they serve because they see on their frontier four powerful nations who may at any time use Switzerland as their battlefield. Besides being peasants, and actually owning their own homes, they are willing to go out and fight for what is theirs. Supposing a landowner in this country owned a thousand acres, and he was willing to say, "I will keep 500 for myself and put on the remaining 500 ten, thirty or forty men. They shall eventually own that 500 acres, and I will keep the rest for myself." He would then get those men to join the National Army and to fight as they have never fought before, because they would be fighting for their own homes. At the present time they have nothing to fight for. It is very difficult to make the ordinary person see what a hard task is ours who have to try and get recruits for the task is ours who have to try and get recruits for the Yeomanry and Volunteers. I myself have struggled for some years past as an officer in the Yeomanry. We have found great difficulty. Why? Because we cannot point out to the men exactly the reason why they should come forward and serve their country. It is difficult to tell them precisely what they are going to gain by serving their country, and precisely why they should be patriotic.

Gentlemen, we have now got something to go on, Gentlemen, we have now got something to go on, a practical policy that we can assist, in the Territorial scheme recently laid before the country. As an Association we can, I think, greatly assist this scheme; we have already laid a good foundation, and we have a good President elected today—no better one could we have had. I look forward to seeing the prosperity and utility of this Association growing and assured, and the Association taking a foremost part in making the citizens of this country see the duty that it is our business as an Association to put before them.

Mr. R. J. Johnson (Honorary Secretary): Those

Mr. R. J. Johnson (Honorary Secretary): Those of us who were present at the general meeting this afternoon will realize that the Association is on the eve of an important new departure. We have hitherto confined ourselves to private discussions which have been held more or less in camera. But now we are to take steps to bring our arguments and convictions more within reach of the general public, and to attempt to do something to influence popular opinion. Meanwhile we by no means propose to abandon our original method—the method, I mean, of holding these dinner meetings throughout the veer followed these dinner meetings throughout the year, followed

discussions on subject I would like to say a fer usefulness of this side of had complaints from mem hat the discussions which much good in moulding I t in the least further t ciation has at heart, that dire ourselves into a state

Now, in the first place, very great deal from Mr. Paper. We shall all of us am sure, feel that he leave wiser for having exchanged have benefited greatly from Take, for instance, the f

us with regard to the actu or other. Mr. Dawson has as 11 per cent. Statistics, things. But there can be Dawson has greatly undere his fellow-countrymen in the There are two authoritie into the figures bearing on calculates that nearly 80 per mare population have, at on their country either in the forces, or the police. The o average as high as 70 per ce take it as an absolute and a take it as an absolute and standing all the disadvants teer service has suffered in as Mr. Dawson imagines, and 70 per cent. of our at have, at one time or anothe something—I do not say it something in the way of fi their country in arms. No remarkable fact, and one ti subject of Mr. Dawsen's D. remarkable lact, and one to subject of Mr. Dawson's P. quires me to produce my e-ed to do so, the more so b-inducing him to accept the imately accurate, he will, I in the debt of the Associal he will be more imbued wi which, as Colonel Cave ha which can make a national tem, be it compulsory or v like to give you tonight of private Papers of ours and

llow them.
We have by means of very notable successes durin first place we have definitel to recede somewhat from hi favor of the "Blue Water Sc achievement, and it is an ac echoed with considerable for great military, and payal congreat military and naval a am told that even so experious an told that even so experious cussions which have taken "Blue Water Theories," and rate, to revise the statistics original axisions.

original opinion. That is a
Mention has been made to
and of his notorious speech
Let us recall his exact word "to sleep quietly in their beds to the alarmist doctrines of r sociations. I have no doubt when he was talking in that Defence Association chiefly it surely a notable achievemen should have induced the should have induced the great to think it worth while at the tion, even though disparaging association has made to problems of the "Blue Water Sctain if he went out of his with the was following the example dred years ago whose here artoons on Napoleon are we were in reality horribly afrai ainly believed to the full in t But they kept their spirits great adversary, depreciating and scoffing at all he said or he would never dare to land if he did, they explained wh would get. In reality, they kn dier did succeed in invading England in a foundament

England in a few days.

But, like Sir John Fisher ciation, they were boastfu neasure of their boastfulne heir secret fear of Napoleon who is more alarm it the influence which our upon public opinion and, let have upon public policy.

IN LIGHTE

A Hot P At an alumni dinner lately husetts college told a laugha His father was president of nencement dinner was alway was a grand affair, with mar and the little boy had to wait

and the little boy had to wait inner and returned to the property of the property of the little of the property of the little of chin like myself. I was sen e kitchen and from the dinin about disconsolately, grow hiff of the roasting meats a ddings.

"At length dinner was read hired girls, went to the parlor leaving the dining room door a under the hall table, and here rushed into the dining room to good on the table. Alas, the breach was a dish of hot baked each was a dish of hot baked Fainer and the company

nized a potate, lammed it into lade a rush for the door. I ma lather, who lea the way with "The governor laughed and ms, while I struggled for fre "'Ah, what a fine boy, Mr. Excellency, as he held me fir But he's a rogue, I see, for he

"'I didn't steal father's fwas only a botato. And, O,
With that I gave a ringing
or of father and mother, strue
ace with my hand

Then it all came out. That inder the governor's hug, and hin linen trousers, had made a sec. And so it came to pass officers. ilege, I never had anything neement day but one potato neement day but one neement day to neement day but one potato neement day but outh's Companion.

Sir A. Conan Doyle, at the nas dinner, related that in A were keeping the festival of C fold to hang up their stocking One poor negro had no sto in his pants. In the morning had got in his pants. He repl "I guces I got a nigger; fo

This story was told at a che An Irishman was hard at of a telegraph pole a bright ground of paint slipped and splas Not more than a few seconds atto an employee of the tele

He looked at the paint, then the ladder coming down the possible.

"Muleshy, he called:

"Muleshy, Muleshy! Have "Mulcahy, Mulcahy! Have