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## CONSCRIPTION OR NO CONSCRIPTION, THAT'S THE QUESTION

**Voluntary System Has Given Good Results as Seen From Figures Available—Will Compulsory Service Prove Satisfactory?**

LONDON, Oct. 23.—Conscription or no conscription continues to be the great question here, as indeed all over England, and the discussion is rapidly assuming a very heated and bitter form. In vain the government has begged the leaders of the opposing camps to consider the fact that a question of such enormous importance must be settled by calmly deliberating all details for or against. In vain it has argued that no deliberation is possible in an atmosphere charged with bitterness and personal attacks.

The kernel of the whole question is of course: Will it be possible to achieve better results through general conscription than have been reached by calling for volunteers? This is a mere question of figures, which are available to any intelligent person who cared to look into the facts.

The number of men who since the beginning of the war have volunteered for military service abroad surpasses three millions. A month or so ago the weekly average of volunteers was very much higher. In one day in September, 1914, no less than 35,000 recruits were enlisted. The recruiting department was swamped, and in order to stem the tide they raised the required height two inches, a mistake which, a high War Official says, was almost enough to kill the whole movement.

The number of volunteers decreased daily because the impression spread that the necessary number of soldiers had enlisted. The unhappy results of this mistake were more than made up for, first, by new urgent appeals for men, and second, because the Germans bombarded open towns on England's coast.

The medical examination here being very severe, it is not too much to estimate the number of volunteers rejected as unfit for military service at

one million men. This means then that of the total male population of Great Britain between the ages of eighteen and forty years four million have volunteered for war service, but for this figure must be added at least one million men employed in munition and gun factories and other establishments supplying the needs of the army and navy. Then it must also be remembered that more than 350,000 men were already serving in the navy.

While it is not possible to arrive at the exact number of men, it may safely be said that more than five million are occupied in actual war work, serving with the colors at the front or at home, and working in arm and munition factories. It should then also be remembered that in this number is included neither the Indian nor the Colonial contingents.

The partisans of compulsory service say that, according to the census of 1911, there are in the country nine million men between eighteen and forty-five. Figuring that four million men among these would be needed in arm and ammunition factories, railway service and semi-military establishments, there would still be five million men available for active service in army and navy on the basis of conscription.

The voluntary system, as seen above, has given three million and a half men now in active service, while new recruits are enlisting at the rate of 100,000 a month. This appears to prove that we are not far from the five million men that the champions of conscription figure on being able to raise with compulsory service.

The believers in conscription do not deny that the voluntary system has given excellent results, but they insist that nothing but compulsion will make thousands of "shirkers" and "slackers" join the colors. They also insist that the voluntary system is draining the country of all its best men, for those who enlist are men who possess courage, enthusiasm, initiative and intelligence, while all the loafers, the egotists and the indifferent ones stay at home.

## Six of German Royal House Died on Field of Battle

BERLIN, Oct. 26.—"Six" of my house have died on the field of battle. Sad? Yes, but it must be endured for the future."

In this simple way Leopold, reigning Prince of Lippe, spoke of family losses in the present war, unequalled in the records of any other royal house in Europe. There was even a note of pride in his voice. "They have done their duty. There is nothing more to be said."

First to fall, as Prince Leopold told me the story, was his uncle, Prince Frederick William Zur Lippe, a colonel of infantry.

In the very first month of the war it fell to his lot to lead a charge on Liege. His color-bearer was killed. A comrade, seizing the flag, took his place. He, too, was shot down, and a third.

Then Prince Frederick William leaped into the breach. He had been wounded, but his courage was undiminished.

"Onward, boys!" he shouted and waved the regimental colors over his head. Cheering, his men followed in the face of a withering fire. A bullet found its target in the Prince's body. Beaten down, he pulled himself to his knees, then to his feet. Yet still he made the effort. When he found that was impossible, he passed the flag to one of his men.

Just at that moment a third bullet struck him. He fell to rise no more.

Prince Leopold's brother-in-law, Prince Frederick of Saxe-Meiningen, a brother of the reigning duke, was the next victim. It was near Namur that he met his end.

Prince Frederick's son, Prince Ernest of Saxe-Meiningen, nephew of Prince Leopold, fell at Mauburg. Two cousins, princesses of the house of Lippe-Weisenfels, a branch line of the reigning family, died in battle.

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## ESCAPE OF GERMANS

Attention of German Government is Called to Action of Escaped Germans From Norfolk, Va.—German Government Must hand Them Back to American Authorities if they Land in Germany

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—The attention of the German Government will probably be called to the escape of eight German officers and sailors from the two interned German cruisers at the Norfolk navy yard. Official notice of the escape of the Germans was sent to the State Department last week by Acting Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt.

It is admitted here that no action can be expected of the German Government unless the escaped officers and sailors land on German territory. Should they re-enter German jurisdiction the United States will consider the German Government in honour bound to return them at once to the custody of the United States. It is understood that if representations are made to the German Government in the case Germany will be reminded of this obligation.

Officials are not altogether disposed to hold Germany responsible for the action of the individuals who have violated the terms of their internment. It is felt, however, that obligations by men of the two war vessels should be brought officially to the attention of their government.

No positive word has been received as to the whereabouts of either the group of six who are supposed to have made their escape in the yawl Eclipse or the two officers who failed to report when due last Sunday. The Eclipse has been rumored as being sighted at various points from Baltimore to Brazil within the last week, but nothing authentic has been heard from her. While the Navy Department is not making an active search for the missing men, all naval commanders on the Atlantic coast, in Cuban and Mexican waters, have been informed of the occurrence.

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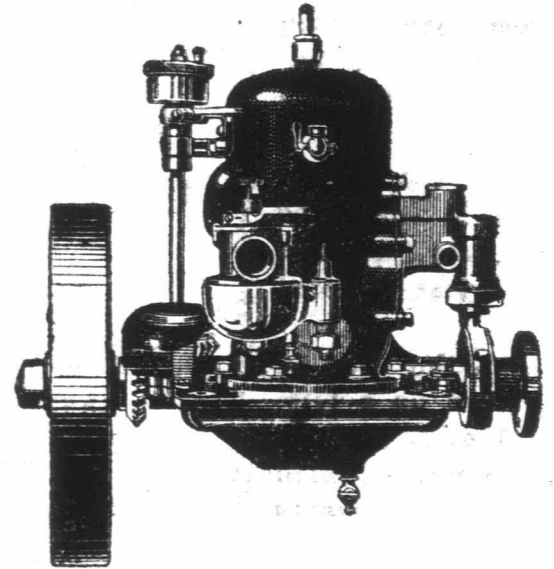
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