

While every man was theoretically a member of the militia, only those who voluntarily joined the several regiments were actually trained.

The system put into practice was exactly the militia system as we have all known it in our own day.

Our very far-reaching Militia Act is one that no Government as ever cared to use.

Lawyers differ as to its effectiveness.

In 1914, when Canada decided to send a contingent overseas, the government exchanged despatches with the Imperial government, and on August 6, 1914, passed an Order-in-Council asking the Imperial Government to take over the Canadian contingents under the Army Act.

These documents expressly state that there was a doubt whether the Militia Act authorized the Canadian contingents for overseas.