COMPULSORY SERVICE: A STUDY OF THE QUESTION IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649010097

Compulsory service: a study of the question in the light of experience by Sir Ian Hamilton & R. B. Haldane

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SIR IAN HAMILTON & R. B. HALDANE

COMPULSORY SERVICE: A STUDY OF THE QUESTION IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE

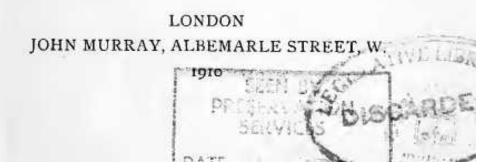
Trieste

COMPULSORY SERVICE

A STUDY OF THE QUESTION IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE

BY GENERAL SIR IAN HAMILTON

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE RIGHT HON. R. B. HALDANE



JAN G 1980 LIBRARY UA 652 K6H3

FRINTED BY EAZELL, WATSON AND VINEY, LD., LONDON AND AVLESBURY.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

COMPULSORY SERVICE

Introductory—The British Soldier—State Policy—Its Instruments—Regular and Militia Systems—Compulsory and Voluntary Service—Dr. wbacks of Compulsory Service—Two Schools —Our Military Problem—Foreign Experience—Differences of Problem—Citizen Armies—Their Limitations—Staying Power —The South African War—Fear of Invasion—Temptation to Compromise—Feeling in Great Britain—Difficulty of Increasing Regulars—Continental Opinion—German Experience—German Over-sea Soldiers—Their Cost—Foreign Expeditions—Russian Experience—French Experience—Foreign Legion and Colonial Army—Fronch Terms of Service—Pay and Rewards in France

CONTENTS

-Government Posts-French Experience-French Soldiers-Attitude towards Colonial Army-Numbers of French Over-sea Army-Proportion kept at Home-The British Expeditionary Force-Continental Analogy Fails-Lessons from Home Experience-The Three-Years System-Its Results-The Lesson-Attitude towards Compulsion-Dangers of Compulsory Service-Summing Up-Alternative Plans-The German Model-Details-Our Six Divisions-Drawbacks of Continental Model-Advantages and Disadvantages-Balance of Advantage-Another View-Loss of Strength Over-sea-National Service League Plan-Its General Scheme-Its Financial Aspect-Recruit Training-Period of Year-Danger to Regular Recruiting-Current Misconceptions -Further Difficulties-The Five Alternatives-Their Respective Merits-Another Possibility-The Territorial Force-Its Value, Present and Future-Misconceptions-Fighting Quality-Leading of Territorials-The Moral Factor-The Voluntary Spirit -The Parade at Windsor-Quality of Territorials-South African Experience-The Imperial Light Horse-The Colonials -The City Imperial Volunteers-Royal Commission Evidence -Attainment of Fighting Value-Character of Territorial Soldier-The Moral Factor-Development of Territorial Force -Useful Expenditure-Real Alternative Policies-A Continental Army-Home Defence Policy-Its Danger to the Empire-The Better Way . 120 . pp. 43-139

CONCLUSIONS

CONTENTS

APPENDICES

LPP.	
I	TEXT OF THE BILL INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS
	TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSALS OF THE NATIONAL
	SERVICE LEAGUE
п	MEMORANDUM OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE LEAGUE ON
	THE NATIONAL SERVICE (TRAINING AND HOME DEFENCE)
	Вп
ш	ESTIMATE BY THE NATIONAL SERVICE LEAGUE OF THE
	NUMBERS AND COST INVOLVED UNDER ITS PROPOSALS.
	pp. 163–181
IV	PARLIAMENTARY PAPER (HOUSE OF LORDS, JULY 8, 1909)
	CONTAINING THE REMARKS OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT
	OF THE WAR OFFICE ON THE ESTIMATE OF THE NATIONAL
	SERVICE LEAGUE
v	NOTES ON WAR OFFICE PAPER "ARMY, JULY 8, 1909,"
	BY THE NATIONAL SERVICE LEAGUE pp. 189-197

INTRODUCTION

INTEREST in the question of compulsory military service in these islands is very general, and it is important that materials for forming a judgment on the subject should be before the public. I have therefore thought it right to publish a memorandum written for me by one who has very recently held the position of Adjutant-General-Sir Ian Hamilton. It is an unofficial document, originally prepared for my private information, and it does not profess to do more than record the conclusions about various alternatives to the existing system at which he has individually arrived, after study of facts and figures which came before him during the period of his work as Adjutant-General.

For the information of the lay reader, I may mention that the work of organising the British Army at headquarters is one which is carefully distributed. The General Staff plans out the scheme of the various

10 THE ORGANISATION OF THE ARMY

forces on the basis of preparation for war; determines the number, structure, and proper size or establishment of the cadres in war, and the purposes and standard of their equipment, accessories, and weapons. These last are supplied by the Quartermaster-General and the Master-General of the Ordnance. To the Department of the Adjutant-General falls, among other duties, that of finding and organising in peace the men to fill the cadres which the General Staff demands for war. These cadres may be on paper the best in the world, but their reality depends on whether it is possible to get recruits, adequate in number and in quality, to fill them. To an Adjutant-General, therefore, the idea of compulsory service is naturally an attractive one. He looks with envy on the easy fashion in which cadres are filled in Germany, France, and Switzerland. He thinks of the physical training and habits of exactness which compulsory service makes general.

But, as a great critic of life has told us, he who acts on only one maxim is a pedant and spoils things for himself and for others. The Adjutant-General of the British Army has more than one thing to consider, and he must resist temptations into which the