

the system proposed for England where full-time training for six months or one year must be completed before the age of 23 years is reached. In New Zealand, a similar scheme could be adopted without prejudice to the economic and social life of the community.



The actual time of commencement of service could also easily be adjusted for the convenience of students, apprentices, and to meet other individual circumstances as long as the conditions of training were fulfilled. In addition, a two or three weeks' annual refresher course for the following five years would, if practicable, provide the necessary addition to a complete training period.

Of course, the argument will be put forward that absence for a year would be an unnecessarily long period for a youth—particularly if he is at University, taking night classes or trade training. In the first two instances training could be undertaken before or on completion of his studies, while in most cases the institution of a thoroughly sound Army education organisation would cater adequately for most pupils. In addition it would give to many, not so fortunately placed, the opportunity of taking up some form of study and open the way for Adult Education on a large scale.

When compulsory training is being discussed, it is mostly limited to questions concerning the Army. However, the Navy and the Air Force must not be forgotten. Those two arms contribute much and will contribute on an even larger scale to the future defence of the Dominion. The scope offered by the services would enable a trainee to be

drafted to a position most suitable to his individual capabilities and medical grading. Existing Naval and Air stations lend themselves admirably to a Dominion-wide scheme and thus in the event of a crisis, or even hostilities, an organisation would be ready and be competent to undertake vigorous defensive measures until the main forces were mobilised. Any likelihood of the Dominion being caught in a state of unpreparedness would thus be obviated.

The inauguration of such a scheme also opens up many avenues for attainment in other fields. Consideration must also be given to the question of instituting training for women's services. The suggestion might seem ludicrous to some, but even if training were limited to six or even three months much good could be accomplished in ensuring that the bare essentials were absorbed. In this case, service could be optional and dependent on domestic circumstances. It seems unthinkable that the existing organisations, which have accomplished so much, should be allowed to lapse on the cessation of hostilities.

Never before has such a scheme offered such possibilities for the encouragement of a completely fit and healthy nation. In the first instance it would ensure a medical examination for every person, fit or otherwise, and provide where required the opportunity for remedial treatment at a period in life when the body is still capable of responding readily to corrective measures.



Many obstacles to such a comprehensive plan for compulsory military service will no doubt be raised. These are not insurmountable. Providing the authorities approach the problem with a clear picture of their re-