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L. J. S. Chapple

## RIPA ISLAND.

### A LESSON FOR CONSCRIPTIONISTS.

[AUTHORITIES.—The narrative of events on Ripa Island is given in the words of the boys themselves, but has been compiled from four sources, viz : (1) Article by Reg. Williams, in *The Repeal* (the organ of the Passive Resisters' Union), August, 1913 ; (2) Letter to the Labour Congress, signed "on behalf of the thirteen prisoners," by Williams, Hooper and Worrall, dated July 2nd, and published in *The Dominion*, July 5th ; (3) Letter from John McTaggart to the Mayor of Runanga, dated July 2nd, and endorsed by the other twelve lads ; (4) Private letters of J. K. Worrall to his parents, July 1st and 2nd. The account of the proceedings before the magistrate in the fort agrees substantially with the report of the Christchurch *Evening News*, July 2nd. Citations of Parliamentary and other official proceedings are chiefly from *The Dominion* newspaper. —S.V.B.]

NEW ZEALAND seems to be regarded by the National Service League as its own little experimental farm. There is, nevertheless, ground for believing that in efficiency, in discipline, in marksmanship, in regularity of attendance on parade, in everything but numbers, the New Zealand army of youthful conscripts is inferior to the volunteers of a few years ago ; and even in point of numbers official figures show that it has not come up to expectations. But perhaps the chief value of this experimental farm of the National Service League lies in its testing of the methods of compulsion. If a lad does not want to drill how shall he be made to do it ? That is a question on which the League is perfectly silent. When it was asked in a newspaper, the Secretary of the League replied that it did not come within the scope of his organisation. And yet the only new thing which the League proposes is compulsion. The sole essential innovation which it demands is that something shall be done to the