

## SERVICE FOR THE ALIENS

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The Russian Jews and other aliens, in Britain are not subject to the compulsory service law as are native or naturalized Britishers. Many of them are political fugitives. Britain, always the friend of political exiles and a haven for the oppressed of all lands, has never shut the door on their freedom. A proposal to send back to Russia many of the fugitives from the land of the Czar, where they would be liable for service, brought out a storm of protest against such a breach of the national hospitality. But many of these aliens have taken advantage of their exemption to seize business that belonged to Britishers patriotically sacrificing themselves in the army. They are fattening on the difficulties and distress of others. It is only natural, under the circumstances, that the British people should reason that, if these aliens enjoy British protection and profit from British commerce, they should also incur the obligations of citizenship, even if they had not taken out naturalization papers. A compromise was reached by which a committee of prominent Jewish business men undertook a special recruiting campaign among their brethren. A Jewish corps was organized. Special provision was made to allow them to become naturalized citizens without cost. The period for the recruiting campaign is passed, and the subject of what to do with the eligibles who have not responded is again to the front. The Home Secretary, Mr. Samuel, himself a Jew, has taken a strong view of their duties and liabilities. He is prepared, apparently, to support conscription in their case. It would indeed be unjust to let aliens remain exempt, to gather unto themselves fatness, while men of British citizenship suffer heavily for the cause of freedom—the freedom the aliens migrated to Britain to enjoy.