

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK

ROBERT LEE
DISTRICT MANAGER
BROWN-MARX BUILDING

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

32

April 11, 1917.

Hon. J. H. Bankhead, U. S. S.
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

There seems to be some difference of opinion as to whether the United States should raise an army by process of volunteer or conscription, there also seems to be a disposition to eliminate the privilege of volunteer companies organizing. I wish to modestly suggest for what the suggestion is worth that we get all the forces we can by volunteering and the remainder that we have to have by conscription. Many a man will volunteer when he would feel disgraced to be conscripted, and I believe that a thousand volunteers (as they more frequently come from the higher class of our citizens) will be worth 10,000 of the non-descript kind gotten together by conscription.

I regard it as very important to the nation to have as large as possible a trained force for military purposes from the higher walks of life, and to have them as separate as possible from the armies that are gotten from the people who have to be forced to serve.

It may be that the time will come when we will need a large trained volunteer force to enforce conscription. If there is anything in the world that I am intensely interested in at this time, it is to have the country prepared for (any eventuality that may arise) for any aggression from any source of a foreign foe, and I believe the country should be prepared to defend herself against possible anarchistic and socialistic troubles that may follow eventual peace because temporarily following so called " world peace " there may be too much swing of the pendulum of so called democracy and we are likely to need strong protective forces in the more responsible class of people until the proper reaction from these possible and even probable results take place.

Thanking you in advance to give this communication consideration, I remain,

Yours very truly,

ROBERT LEE

Per. S. Chalifout



COPY

14 April 1917. b-c

Mr. Robert Lee,
Birmingham, Alabama,

My dear Sir:

In the absence of Senator Bankhead, I
acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th
instant. It will be called to his attention
upon his return to the office within the next
few days.

Yours very truly,

