

martial law. Soldiers will continue to be soldiers, and policemen will continue to be policemen. Any attempt to confuse these two functions can have only one result. It will interrupt and impede the most necessary work of the Department of National Defence.

I make a special appeal to ex-soldiers. Discipline and restraint and patience were amongst the qualities that brought us victory in the last war, and will win it for us in this war. No body of men possessed those qualities in higher degree, or learned the lessons which underlie them more abundantly, than the veterans of the war of 1914. The militia service of Canada and the enlarged scope which new legislation will bring, will offer plenty of opportunities to those who are anxious to assist in the defence of Canada.

I may say that the opinions which I have expressed and the appeal which I have made are supported and shared by my hon. friend the minister-designate of national defence and all the technical officers of the department.

Now a word with respect to equipment. The plain facts must be stated to the house. The situation has altered within the past few weeks, even days. Our immediate requirements will be infinitely greater; our sources of supply are not the same. We must discard even well-founded and carefully-conceived plans based on the best technical advice that above all uniformity of design and interchangeability were essential. We must now procure what we can, when we can, where we can.

With regard to personal equipment and clothing our own factory production should suffice. It will be continuous. But even here, I must warn the house not to expect perfection. There will be delays on account of these extra demands. The clothing may not all be of such appearance and design as would gratify the heart of a sergeant-major of the household guards. It is intended to provide covering and a moderate degree of comfort for a citizen army being hastily mobilized.

With regard to rifles, the situation is in hand for the moment, but procurement and production must be provided for the future. Here again there will be sure to be complaint. But let me say this. As recently as ten days ago a very large shipment from Canada to overseas of the much criticized Ross rifle was gratefully acknowledged.

With regard to most types of mechanical transport, our automotive industry has responded nobly and we anticipate no difficulty either present or future.

With regard to other armament—guns, machine guns, tanks, instruments—there will be a scarcity for training, on account of the large number of men with whom we shall have to deal. These articles must be produced or procured. I will not say when, how or where, but I will say this. We are fully alive to the abrupt cessation of our anticipated major sources of supply and we are also fully alive to the greatly increased