

I have always been strongly convinced that such a day would come sooner or later, and I have lost no opportunity to say so, in season and, peradventure, out of season, too.

At the Banquet of the Scottish Societies in London, Ont., on the 30th November, 1898, St. Andrew's Day, I was called upon to reply to the toast of the "Army, Navy and Auxiliary Forces." In doing so I took as my main theme the "necessity for preparation" by the Canadian Militia for service on behalf of the Empire in Canada or out of it. I stated then that the day was not far distant when Canada would be called upon to furnish thousands of men to help maintain the integrity of the Empire, either on our own shores against a possible invader, or elsewhere upon the seas. Well, gentlemen, whilst my remarks to that end were cheered by the majority of those present, it was apparent to me that some of the gentlemen, and prominent gentlemen, too, thought I was talking utter jingo rot, and so they told me afterwards. Well, they changed their minds not so very long after that evening, for on the next anniversary of that same day—St. Andrew's Day, 1899—the first Canadian Contingent disembarked on South African soil at Capetown—the first contingent of Canadians who had the very distinguished honor and privilege of going as a body outside of Canada to help keep the dear old flag waving where there appeared to be danger of its being lowered for a time.

It's an old but a very trite saying that "It's the unexpected that always happens." So it was in 1885, and in 1899, and so it will be again in some other year and in some other part of the Empire, and if Britain becomes involved in war with any of the first class European powers, all of whom the fleets of warships and of transports, which she certainly will some day, we here in Canada will have to be up and doing with a vengeance to defend our own shores and no mere 5,000 or 10,000 men will be able to do it either.

Now, gentlemen, having enlarged somewhat on the necessity for preparation in its broad and general sense, I will come down to particularize as to the branch of preparation I want more especially to lay stress upon. Any body of troops of one, two or all branches of the service should be prepared before taking the field as to the matter of arms, equipment, transport, supply, medical attendance and the like, but the preparation I most particularly want to speak of at this time is training. By training I mean, of course, drill in all its forms, knowledge of interior economy, of regimental duties, and, above all, amenability to discipline. Now, all drill as such, be it barrack square drill, ceremonial, field drill, battle formation, or what not, tends to discipline, and when you get a disciplined lot of men they are away