

The Strathcona Trust

In March, 1909, Lord Strathcona gave a striking evidence of his sterling patriotism, in the donation of \$250,000 for the encouragement of physical and military training in the schools of Canada. This was supplemented a little later by an additional \$50,000. When the Minister of Militia had completed arrangements with the Province for the adoption of a scheme of co-operative action in the matter of making physical training and elementary military drill a part of the education of the boys and girls of Canada, Lord Strathcona added \$200,000 to the fund, making the income on \$500,000 available for establishing the movement on a permanent and assured basis.

The Federal Government has taken over the whole amount from the trustees of the fund, and has guaranteed interest at four per cent. per annum, thus giving an annual amount of \$20,000 to be administered by the Strathcona Trust Fund Board under the conditions of the original donation.

The object of the fund may be briefly set forth by a quotation from Lord Strathcona's letter of March 13, 1909, announcing his first gift of \$250,000. His Lordship then wrote :

"My object is not only to help to improve the physical and intellectual capabilities of the children by inculcating habits of alertness, orderliness and prompt obedience, but also to bring up the boys in patriotism and to a realization that the first duty of a free citizen is to be prepared to defend his country. The Dominion, at the present time, and for many years to come, can hardly hope to be able to give so long a period of training to her military forces as by itself would suffice to make them efficient soldiers, but if all the boys had acquired a fair acquaintance while at school with simple military drill and rifle-shooting, the degree of efficiency which could be reached in the otherwise short period which can be devoted to the military training of the Dominion forces would, in my opinion, be enormously enhanced. I will only add that I should prefer that for the present at least the whole of the money grant should be devoted to those educational establishments which are maintained entirely out of public funds. I think further that the administration of the fund should be such as to enable both sexes, whether teachers or pupils, to share in the rewards, and that the allotment of the money should be so made as to afford an induce-