

business or, trade or pleasure, have never been troubled with alarm at the possibility of any rupture in the even tenor of their way, who may have never seen soldiers at all, or having seen them only in times of rest and quiet, never allow their minds to grasp or from the narrow groove of their calling, may be unable to comprehend the extent of power a military force exerts by the very moral effect of its existence, in allowing them to live in peace. Far less can such persons rise to appreciate the virtue of military forces should wars or alarms arouse them from their prolonged dreams of security and their indifference to those by whom they have, unknown to themselves, been protected.

Possibly there might be grounds for some of these various shades of scruple, if the Militia of Canada could be made the instrument of aggression; but it is the essential nature of a constitutional Militia, that it should be only a purely defensive organization—to be employed by the Government in resistance to unjust attack, either from rebellion, invasion or insurrection, or by the civil power, to quell disturbance against which the ordinary police force is insufficient.

As the assistance of the Militia has been so frequently called for in the past year, by the civil authorities, I have considered it advisable to publish in General Orders the duties of the Military in giving aid to the civil power, and to explain that such aid can only legally be afforded upon the requisition in writing of the chairman or custos of Quarter Sessions or by three Magistrates one of whom may be the Mayor, warden or other head of the municipality or county.

It can never be urged that the predatory acquisition of territorial, military or commercial advantages is either in accordance with national right or necessary to the progress of civilization; but we are bound from every point of view to stick to the advantages gained for us by our forefathers, we must never abandon self preservation as a first law of existence, to think only of higher moralities; we must never lose sight of conscience and honour, nor for a moment permit the chance that Communism should with impunity make a grand experiment on the smallest portion of that collection of properties termed the British Empire—policy and national safety are worldly considerations, but they are quite worthy the attention of statesmen. As a consequence it does not seem to me an unreasonable proposition that every individual man in the community who is not borne on the rolls of the Active Militia, should pay an approximate capitation tax in money each year, of two dollars towards militia expenditure alone, and that this tax, which should be collected through the machinery of the various Provincial Governments, be proportioned by a sliding scale according to the means or income of each individual.

I consider no one can dispute his liability to contribute towards national defence. How can the merchant, the broker, the tradesman, expect to carry on his business and gain his livelihood unless protected from assailants against the public peace?