

are spending now \$8,000,000 a year for our militia. The hon. member for South York (Mr. Maclean) the other day said that we might offer \$10,000,000 as a contribution to the British navy and also organize a Canadian navy, which would probably involve an expenditure of \$5,000,000 more—say \$15,000,000 for the navy and \$8,000,000 for the militia. And this for a country that claims not to be a militarist country. And the minister states that we are training to-day about 60,000 men. That is quite a number for a country with a population of about 7,000,000. Apply the same proportion to countries with populations of sixty to eighty millions, and it would be a huge amount of training annually. The same principles do not apply to European countries that apply to Canada. We are not a militarist country. I really take very strong objection to training in camp youths of from twelve to fifteen years of age. I would very humbly suggest to the minister that he should allow this thing to stand for a year. Then, if he wishes, let him come back with the item next year and we will discuss it. In the meantime, we can see what the provincial authorities think of it and learn the feelings of the country generally. I think this is a fair proposition to make to the hon. minister. It seems to me that we are marching very fast in the direction of militarism. I urge the minister not to be carried away by his zeal and enthusiasm.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am much surprised to hear the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Beland) speak as he has done considering the training he received as a cadet. But I realize that his words of to-day have not the ring of sincerity that usually characterizes his utterances, but he is only endeavouring to assist the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) out of the unfortunate dilemma into which he has got himself by confusing the cadet organization, which is largely a matter of physical drill and is under the control of the provinces, with the cadet organization which is intended, I have no hesitation in saying, to do away largely with the system of training the military as now carried on in this country. Let me point out at the outset that nobody will be allowed to go into camp under this system unless he has the written authority of his parents. Therefore, if my hon. friend has doubts as to the propriety of his children going into one of these camps, those children will be left at home. The system is purely voluntary. There is no ground for the dread with which the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) and the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Beland) regard these boys going into camp, because those camps will be conducted under proper conditions. The manhood of any country is built up by

Mr. BELAND.

trust and not by restraint, not by keeping men in swaddling clothes or tied to apron strings. Search the record of all lands and you always find that the boys who have become the real men of the country are those who have been trusted in their youth. I have yet to see the boy or youth who was fully trusted betray the trust reposed in him. Our estimates are growing. But my hon. friend from Beauce (Mr. Beland) sat here anticipating a position as minister of the Crown for a good many years, and saw the military estimates growing year by year, yet found no reason to stand up and, with lowering countenance, object to the increase. I have reduced the military estimates this year. And, taking out the items on capital account, the military estimates, considering the number of troops trained and the work done, are almost infinitely lower than they have been in the past five years. Yet now, for the first time, the hon. member grows apprehensive. But I know he is not very serious. I trust to have him take part in the camps this summer. Let him become a scout leader and lead his boys along the road to the camp. Let him look after his boys, and I am satisfied he will be much more favourable to the training of these boys in camp.

Let us instruct boys in a military education, the same as we instruct them in reading, writing and arithmetic. Do it when they are young, you cannot do it when they are old. I challenge all the military men in the country to show me one proficient military man who did not receive a military training in his boyhood. I am satisfied that the hon. gentleman himself, when he goes back home, will undertake to form a cadet corps in his neighbourhood.

Mr. MACDONALD. My hon. friend's versatility is so amusing that, as the proposition was not a serious one, you could hardly understand him discussing it in the way he does. I wish to register my protest against the proposition that we should vote \$130,000 for the purpose of establishing cadet camps in this country, in utter disregard of the provisions of the Strathcona fund, and the efforts the trustees of that fund have made and the arrangements they have made with provincial governments. My hon. friend, in his memorandum, under the heading of the cadet corps, has gone into the thing very fully on pages 7 and 11. He shows that the cadet corps are the product of the schools under which the Strathcona Trust are expending the money. I say the minister is displaying a lack of care, and is imperilling the whole system that has been built up by the Strathcona fund.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The Strathcona trust has nothing whatever to do