

sponsibilities, and even in Canada our history has shown that we cannot do this successfully unless we are trained to shoulder the rifle. Canada and the Empire have new and larger claims to-day upon the manhood of this Dominion. We have to look to our defences and our readiness for war a good deal more seriously. Our brave boys in Africa have made world-wide history for us, and a world-wide record for themselves. A country which can produce such stuff for soldiers can to-day hold up its head with pride and courage, even in the face of the old fighting nations of Europe. But our boys do not need to go to Africa to serve Canada and the Empire. They can serve their daily employers with the utmost fidelity, and serve their country too, by training their bodies and brains in more or less active ways, to do their duty as soldiers of the Queen at home. By making rifle-practice a national pastime, thousands who may not have the privilege of joining the militia, can do their duty, and, in or out of the uniform of the Queen, by avoiding those miserable dissipations and habits which enervate young manhood and age them before their time. The glory of a young man is his strength, and it should be the pride of young Canada to take the best possible care of his body, upon which his country has the first claim.

When I see healthy young Canadians, fitted by nature to serve their country's defence, making fools of themselves by excesses, I feel that they are not only paving the way for their own future physical and moral wreckage, but that they are selfishly destroying the best defences of the country. Canada's physical outfit largely depends upon her young men. Expert rifle shots and good marching men who are able to endure exposure and fatigue, are never made out of moral cowards or bar-room soakers. The opportunities for manliness, and even for heroism, are far more prevalent in the streets of our cities than on the veldt or kopjes of Africa.