

The only system which could be followed from now on is universal peace-time military training and universal compulsory war-time military service. I would wish that it could be otherwise, but as it is, in my opinion, inevitable, we might as well come right out and say so, and the time to say so is right now.

Since we would then be embarking upon a new man-power policy in the service of peace, I would suggest that we apply new methods construed to create among our young men an ambition toward military training and careers. I will refer particularly to men called up for service in this last war, who were not given a chance, by force of circumstances, to adapt themselves to army life, went absent without leave, are now being picked up, and sentenced to so many months or years of detention. I am not advocating that deserters be not punished; but, thinking that we might need every fit man sooner than we expect, I suggest that detention rules should aim at the same time at educating these young men as to what the army stands for and what an honour it is to wear His Majesty's uniform. If we are to establish a universal peace-time military training programme, I suggest that such a programme should be practical.

If one reads article 43, which refers to special agreements determining the size of our army, et cetera, paragraphs 1 and 2, and also paragraph 3, which says that such agreements shall be ratified by signatory states according to their respective constitutional practice, one might say, "Why not wait until such agreement is presented to parliament for ratification before discussing peace-time training? All requirements imposed on us by the security council will then be known and might be debated more intelligently than to-day. You now base your reasoning only on assumptions which may never materialize."

I wish to state very clearly that I hope that peace-time training is not established in this country. I hope that in future wars compulsory service is not put into effect. But in approving this charter we are undertaking obligations, among others, military. I submit that the ratification of any special agreement adhered to will be almost automatic, and I want our people to know at once what their obligations are or might be under this charter. I submit that we should not wait until too much unrest is created before we discuss how this country may have to govern itself in peace and war time in the future. I remember too well the troublesome, anxious days of November, 1944, when this parliament convened in a hurry to discuss urgent matters of reinforcements. Any form of isolation is from now on impossible. Furthermore,

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

neutrality is practically incompatible with the prescriptions of the charter. Any future conflict will be a battle for our very existence. Therefore I for one, voting in favour of this peace instrument, understand that I may be voting for universal peace-time military training and universal compulsory war-time service. However—and this is the main element of my speech—if and when military duties of that significance are imposed on the nation, I insist that the proposed system be practical as well as effective. It should exempt in war time certain classes of people as was the case in the last war. Essential industrial workers and farmers should be exempted completely and without complicated formalities.

The peace-time military training programme to come should be combined with a physical fitness programme. There is in our statutes, 7 George VI, chapter 29, 1943, a law given royal assent July 24, 1943, entitled "An act to establish a national council for the purpose of promoting physical fitness".

The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Claxton) is now responsible for this act, which states:

Provinces may conclude under the act agreements with the council and receive financial help from the federal government.

The first meeting of the national council was held in Ottawa, May 23-24, 1944. Representatives of all provinces expressed their views.

During this last war, we have been amazed at discovering how large a number of candidates for our forces were rejected on the grounds of physical disabilities. In their remarks, representatives of the provinces emphasized this alarming situation, and they agreed that an extensive coordinated physical fitness programme would help this nation a great deal, in war and in peace. Mr. J. Mathisen, of British Columbia, declared:

The introduction of the national fitness bill is coming at a psychologically ripe hour. The standard of physical fitness was alarmingly low at the outbreak of the war; there are reasons and evidence that it is lower yet to-day; teenage troubles are mounting and people are becoming gravely, and justly so, concerned about the future of the growing generation.

Major A. A. BurrIDGE, of Ontario, at the same meeting, opened his address saying:

The problem of this council (the national council on physical fitness) is to plan for the physical fitness of our people. The ultimate aim is to reach all citizens, the immediate aim is threefold: First, to produce potential candidates for the armed forces, who will be so trained physically that the training time in the forces could be materially decreased.

The representative who endeavoured the most to show the usefulness of a physical