

Defence as a Business Proposition

On January 29th, 1913, Lt.-Col. Wm. Hamilton Merritt, president of the Canadian Defence League, delivered a notable address before the Committee of One Hundred of the Toronto Board of Trade, in which he recalled the two ideas that obtain throughout the world regarding military services; that which makes it as much a citizen's duty as paying taxes, and which is the system that obtains in most nations of the world to-day, notably in Germany, France, Japan, and Australia; and that which is known as the voluntary system only in vogue in Great Britain, the United States, Canada and China, the two former being in a special position because of their comparative isolation and big naval armaments, thus leaving the two latter countries in a position by themselves. He said it is impossible to have a proper military under the present system of training in Canada, quoting Lord Roberts' speech of July 23rd last: "No modification of the voluntary system, no amount of lavish expenditure, no cajolery, no juggling with figures will ever produce an adequate and efficient home army on the voluntary system."

The following statements, compiled by Col. Merritt and used in his address, are both interesting and valuable:

NOVA SCOTIA, SWITZERLAND AND CANADA COMPARED.

	Nova Scotia 1866	Switzer- land 1910	Can- ada 1910
Total Militia expenditure per capita of the population	\$0.32	\$2.48	\$0.85
Total Militia expenditure per capita of the Militia	\$1.97	\$17.50	\$119.60
Cost of Headquarters and District Staffs	No record	\$317,177	\$159,086
Cost of Permanent Corps, with barracks, maintenances, &c..	Nil	\$359,763	\$2,106,879
Number of officers and men in Permanent Corps	Nil	239	2,844
War strength of Militia	58,000 (45,767 at camp)	467,054	57,694 (44,333 at camp)