

have grown up in the army, that our judgment as to what they should do is superior to their own.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That is not what I am doing.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think it would be fairer to him and to the Senate that when we meet again—and we may meet much sooner than we expect—we should have before us, in one of our large committee rooms, the Minister of National Defence, surrounded by the men whose advice he seeks and accepts, to explain to us the work they are carrying on. We should be face to face with men of experience who could speak with authority. Surely my right honourable friend cannot expect me to join him in saying that the scheme which is being developed is all wrong. I confess I should feel somewhat ridiculous in making such a statement over the heads of men in the department upon whom we rely for administration of the military affairs of this country.

I have presented the statement which will form the basis of the regulations, and if my right honourable friend desires I can have Mr. Cassels, Brigadier Orde and his assistant explain how far they are advanced in their work, and how they are adhering to what I have just read.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Mr. Cassels is a lawyer. He is drafting what he is told to draft.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes, as to the form of the regulations to be issued.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Brigadier Orde is Judge-Advocate-General. I do not believe it would be of much value to have him and Mr. Cassels before us. In view of the condition we are in, taking 300,000 men and giving them a little bit of training to fight in a war like this would indicate to me that the Government is not following the advice of its Defence Council.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Why does my right honourable friend surmise that?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: If it is, we should get another Defence Council.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I know nothing about military matters.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: So we are on an equal footing.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Exactly. But my common sense tells me that the training of 300,000 men within a year, giving them only

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one month's training, will not get us very far forward. According to all I have read in connection with the situation, it takes anywhere from six months to a year to train a man to go into battle. Our First Division went overseas after fairly intensive training here, but it took months of training in Great Britain before it was fully developed as a fighting force. I cannot but feel that the effort is not being made in the right direction. As I see it, the thing to do is to give thorough training to as many men as those in authority think will be required for this situation, and not to give a multitude of men only partial training. I admit I may be entirely wrong. We should have an opportunity of questioning, not the lawyers who are preparing the regulations, but the men who will be carrying them out in the way of training.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: When those regulations are drawn up and the men have been selected by classes, they will be turned over to the Department of National Defence, which does the training.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Of course I can quite understand the probable basis for this policy upon the part of the Government. I listened with great interest last night or the night before to what Priestley, I think it was, or one of the other commentators, called the "broomstickers." It seems that at the present time thousands of men—middle-aged men, old men, crippled men—are training in the Old Country. They are neither uniformed nor armed, but they are preparing for home-defence service, and they go out on the football fields and train with broomsticks instead of rifles. That is perfectly correct in England, because there thousands of Germans may come from the clouds any day. But we have not reached such a stage in Canada. It would be all right to train men here for a few weeks if we were looking for an attack: then we should have to train hundreds of thousands of men to resist. But the necessity for Canada at the present time is to get ready as quickly as possible as many thoroughly trained men as are needed for the job they have to do. That preparation cannot be made in a month.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Perhaps my honourable friend forgets that this is a scheme in preparation for the defence of Canada.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: So far so good.