

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). We do not consult the provincial authorities about the military camps, why should we do so in this case.

Mr. MACDONALD. But you have the cadet corps by reason of your agreement with the provincial authorities.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Not at all. These are not cadet corps, that is where the hon. member makes a mistake.

Mr. MACDONALD. Look at the agreement with the provincial government and you will find it.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The hon. member is opposing this regularly organized cadet corps movement which will take the boys from localities where regularly organized cadet corps were never heard of, and where the Strathcona Trust has not yet reached. I hope the hon. member will see that. I know he wants to be fair and if by my explanations I can make the matter clear to him I will be very glad to do it. There are many sections of the country where young men do not go to school at all. These lads, between the ages prescribed, will be permitted to go to camp in proportion to the number volunteering from the district. I think we will see that point clearly. These are places where neither the cadet corps nor the Strathcona Trust exists, but if a boy happens to have been trained under the Strathcona Trust that will not prevent his coming to camp as a militiaman. We have in the ranks of our militiamen many young men who have been trained as cadets and they are among the best volunteers that we have.

Mr. MACDONALD. In view of the position the Minister is taking I will quote from the agreement made between the Strathcona Trust and the province of Nova Scotia to the following effect:

The Militia Department will draft a syllabus of the work required to be done by a school or college cadet corps in order to entitle a teacher to the annual bonus, and will conduct the necessary examinations. Until cadet corps possess in their officers qualified instructors, this work of instruction will be carried out by instructors detailed by the Militia Department, so far as practicable.

Now I say that in my province the cadet corps owe their existence very largely, if not exclusively, to the work that was done under the Strathcona Trust.

I know that there are cadet corps in other provinces which existed before the Strathcona Trust was organized. And when I say to my hon. friend that he should have consulted the provincial authorities that had to do with these questions before he decided to take the cadet corps, which are chiefly in the public schools, he will say

that there are other cadet corps. I know there are. But I say that, as regards those provinces, where the cadet corps have been developed as the result of the Strathcona Trust, under an agreement similar to that I have in my hand, it was a serious thing for the minister to act without consultation with the provincial authorities in regard to this innovation, which he is introducing. If this movement is a good one, he might have made it a concerted movement and one that will not interfere with, but will enhance the value of the Strathcona Trust. His failure to do this may result in some provinces in danger of injury to what has been brought about by the Strathcona Trust.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald), insists on confusing the two things. The Strathcona Trust has nothing to do with that which is now before us. We are paying thousands and tens of thousands for instructors to train these teachers. But that is to assist the provinces. We are not calling upon the provinces to assist us in this. These are two distinct movements. You might properly call these organizations, scouts, or young engineers, or anything else. But the name 'cadet,' has been attached to these organizations of boys, and we have held to the name. But I do not see how the hon. member cannot see that there is no conflict whatever.

Mr. BELAND. I share the views of my hon. friend from Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) in regard to the advisability of providing such an amount of \$130,000 for the training of youths in camps during the summer. I understand that boys will be recruited for this training between the ages of twelve and sixteen. I quite understand that the minister is guided by his zeal and boundless enthusiasm in military organization. But I think this scheme is objectionable on many grounds, moral, economic and other. I do not object to providing substantial and sufficient sums for defence, either military or naval; I have given ample proof of that in the past. But I think that now the hon. minister is overdoing the thing. For myself, while taking the classical course in college, I received some military instruction from an instructor who used to come there. But I cannot refrain from saying that we should pause, we should stop and think, before launching upon this new project. This is a new departure, and I am not very sure that it is a wise one. It means this year an expenditure of \$130,000. That may be a small amount relatively to the whole, but it will grow larger and larger every year. We