

school boards of the province to determine for themselves; the consent of the parents in all cases we presume to be implied; consequently exception is taken to paragraph in the letter circular beginning 'The Department of Education has endorsed the movement.' We kindly ask you to have this paragraph withdrawn or in the alternative, the circular to the principals in its entirety be withdrawn."

Whereas, the Minister of National Defence stated during the same debate that he did not interpret the later communication as a repudiation of the original memorandum;

Whereas, the most recent information in the possession of the Department of Education is that cadet battalions were reported in January, 1928, as being established in public schools at eleven points in the province;

Whereas, governments and people in all parts of the world are striving to substitute methods of peace and arbitration for those of violence and war in international affairs; and,

Whereas, cadet training fosters militarism and the war spirit in the rising generation.

Therefore, be it resolved, that this house is of the opinion that the government should discourage the continuance and future organization of cadet training in the public schools of Manitoba.

And be it further resolved, that this house petition the Dominion government to substitute for the present grant for cadet training, a similar grant for national physical instruction under a department other than the Department of National Defence.

It is not my intention to detain the committee further with regard to this affair, but since the minister has given his word to us that this kind of activity in initiating the cadet movement in schools would not be permitted; since notwithstanding, the officers in his department have continued to carry on activities of this kind; and, further, a resolution of the Manitoba legislative assembly has been passed stating that in view of the circumstances it is resolved—

That this house is of opinion that the government should discourage the continuance and future organization of cadet training in the public schools of Manitoba.

I submit it is high time that the Dominion government should keep its hands off our provincial affairs. It is proper too that we should know whether the men in the employ of the department are really carrying out the instructions of the minister. I hope the minister will give us some further information with regard to the whole matter.

Mr. RALSTON: The matter is very simple. My hon. friend was good enough to call my attention to it some days ago, and in fact I noticed it in the newspapers when I was away. The district officer commanding was written to at the time the hon. member made his reference in the house and his attention was called to what my hon. friend has referred to, namely, what I said in the house on June 4,

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

1929. I discovered this after my hon. friend had referred the matter to me. The explanation received is that after the last civic elections, a considerable number of citizens of Winnipeg considered that the time had arrived for the reintroduction of cadet training into the public schools of Winnipeg. They accordingly decided to wait upon the school board. The district cadet officer was asked to accompany them to answer any question that might arise regarding cadet training. The district cadet officer informed the district officer commanding of this request and the district officer commanding authorized him to comply with it. This is the point: the delegation was to appear before the board on the 6th of February, and the day previous thereto the chairman of the board, knowing that the district cadet officer was in charge of cadet training in that district, telephoned him that no formal application for the delegation to be heard had been received by the board, and as such formal application was necessary, he requested the district cadet officer to submit a formal application, which he did. Reading the letter which my hon. friend has read in the light of that explanation, I think it is straining things a little to say that the district cadet officer was an instigator of the movement. He was doing this only because his attention was called by the chairman of the board to the fact that it was necessary to file a formal letter with regard to the appointment to receive the delegation which he himself had been asked to accompany, and his only intervention was at the request of the chairman who said that a letter ought to be written formally requesting that an appointment be arranged. I am anxious to avoid even the appearance of evil, but I think it is straining the terms of the letter a little to say that there was any instigation. It is true there was a district cadet officer there. He is there to serve those who desire cadet training. He is there to give information with regard to it. I am just in the position I was in on June 4 last. I do not want our officers to be instigating cadet training or doing anything which would interfere with anybody's susceptibilities. I want them to do the job for which they are paid.

One word more, and my hon. friend will forgive me for not going into this matter fully, and I appreciate his motive in not taking up the time of the committee and I have expressed my views on this subject before. Cadet training is becoming more and more a provincial and a local matter. With regard to the uniforms, for instance; perhaps my hon. friend does not know that