

TORYISM AND MILITARISM.

Militia Expenditures Doubled and the Arts of Peace Neglected.

"GENTLEMEN we are no more than half-civilized to-day and war is closer than you dream."

The words quoted are those of the Minister of Militia and Defence, Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes, in addressing the Conservative Club of Vancouver a year ago. The militant minister's ideas of the "half-civilization" of the Canadian people and his "dream" of imminent war have resulted in his doubling of the expenditures for militia purposes, with a promise of still greater expenditures for the ensuing years. He has repeatedly declared his desire to make practically every citizen of Canada a soldier.

"As far as I can induce my hard-hearted colleagues to go" he said in the Commons last May, "in the expenditure of public money for militia purposes, I am not going to make any apology." And how far he intends to go may be gauged by his declaration directly afterwards. "I am far from the estimate of one-tenth of the revenue of the Dominion of Canada in my expenditure. That was the understanding with the Imperial Government at the time of Confederation. I intend to catch up fast and I intend to help the people of Canada who are demanding the right to train themselves to defend their homes and their firesides."

If Canada were a half-civilized people and if war really threatened their homes and firesides there would be no ground for cavil at the Colonel's ardent militarism. But Canadians are fortunately considerably more than half-civilized. They are in the van of Christian civilization. Their trust is more in ploughshares than in swords—in pruning-hooks than in spears. A hundred years of peace have blessed their homes and firesides and the fear of the invader was never more remote. Col. Hughes may dream of war but the common sense of the Canadian people tells them that no enemy threatens or is likely to threaten a land invasion. War with the United States is unthinkable. None else can threaten save by the sea—and for that, naval defence, not land defence, comes first. Even the German peril, of which Col. Hughes is the chief exponent, no longer

causes a flutter of passing excitement either in Canada or in the Motherland.

These are the real conditions. Yet Col. Hughes and the Government responsible for his actions are spending for militia purposes this year over \$7 per head for every elector.

In 1910-11, the last complete year of the Laurier administration the total expenditure of the department was \$6,686,657. It took the forty-four years, since Confederation, to bring the expenditures on militia up to this figure, and a very large part of this increase was

PREPARING FOR WAR.

"To safeguard peace we must prepare for war"—I know that maxim; it was forged in hell. This wealth of ships and guns inflames the vulgar and makes the very war it guards against. The god of war is now a man of business, with vested interests. So much sunk capital, such countless callings, the army, navy, medicine, the church—to bless and bury—music, engineering, red tape departments, commissariats, stores, transports, ammunition, coaling stations, fortifications, cannon foundries, shipyards, arsenals, rangers, drill halls, floating docks, war loan promoters, military tailors, camp followers, canteens, war correspondents, horse breeders, armorers, torpedo builders, pipe clay and medal vendors, big drum makers, gold lace embroiderers, opticians, buglers, tent makers, banner weavers, powder mixers, crutches and cork limb manufacturers, balloonists, mapists, heliographers, flying men and diving demons, Beelzebub and all his hosts, who, whether in water, earth or land, among them pocket when trade is brisk a million pounds a week."—Israel Zangwill.

due to relieving the Imperial authorities of the defence of Halifax and Esquimaux. During the first complete fiscal year of the Borden regime the total expenditure of the militia department, exclusive of drill halls and military buildings, was \$8,896,397. This year the Government obtained from Parliament a vote of \$10,938,895—another two million jump. And in addition to this there are scattered through the public works estimates, appropriations for new drill halls, armories etc., aggregating \$3,118,540. Altogether for militia purposes the appropriations total \$14,057,435. Original estimates of cost are

notoriously low in the case of public buildings. It is well within the mark to say that the projected new military buildings—there are over seventy in all, probably the number is much nearer one hundred—which Col. Hughes is trying to start at once will cost when completed over ten million dollars.

Col. Hughes has been busy all summer planning new outlays. A special train covered some 10,000 miles to and fro across Canada bearing General Sir Ian Hamilton, Inspector General of the Overseas Forces, and Col. Hughes with their respective staffs on a spectacular inspection tour. The initial cost was upwards of \$40,000. The ultimate cost no one can foretell. General Hamilton's recommendations if all carried out will mean tens of millions of additional expenditure. Following that came the European tour of Col. Hughes and 21 militia officers and party. The inspection of German and French armies, fortifications, etc., may be expected to inspire increased expenditures so that Canada and Col. Hughes may "catch up" with the mad race of European militarism.

Col. Hughes boasts that in two years he has increased the number of the trained militia by over one-third. And he told Parliament last May that 70,000 more men would have to be provided for at once.

Jingo Imperialism and Centralized Militarism—Plutocracy and Bayonets are natural allies of Toryism. Col. Hughes is proceeding along historic Tory lines. And the Government shares with him full responsibility for the costly and insensate development of militarism in Canada.

There is no real need in Canada for an expenditure on militia amounting to five times the federal expenditure on agriculture. Instead of adding six or ten millions to the annual expenditures on military defence, Canadian Liberalism and Canadian commonsense stand for spending these millions on the productive arts of peace rather than on the destructive arts of war. Canadian agriculture and industrial development are Canada's surest and sanest first line of defence.