

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Does the hon. member mean in regard to the Strathcona Trust or the cadets?

Mr. MACDONALD. They work together.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Australia has now under arms 75,000 cadets. The policy as enunciated by Lord Roberts many years ago when he started this movement in England, which antedates the Scout movement, was that the training of the militiamen of the country of the ages of 20 to 30 should be known by the boy of 12 to 13 years of age—that is, he should understand how to aim and carry a rifle on his shoulder, and so forth, and I am satisfied my hon. friend will agree with me in that.

All that the militia of the past knew in the way of forming fours, and so on, may be seen exemplified in any large public school in the Dominion where the children even much younger than twelve years of age, are trained in the regular hall of the school. It was my privilege to visit Chatham, Ontario, not long ago, where I saw upwards of 900 boys and girls from five to fifteen years, assembled in one hall perform these military evolutions just as correctly and far more systematically than I often seen half the same number of militiamen perform them on the parade grounds. In other words, the children of to-day are being correctly trained in all the schools in the simple military movements that are about all we learn in camp. The policy pursued in Great Britain, in Australia and elsewhere where this matter has been carried on for some time, is to train the boys in shooting. That is, the same principle is followed in training in military work as is carried on in teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. The young man who leaves off the learning of these things until he is twenty-one or upwards, can hardly be made proficient in them. There is no reason why a child of ten or twelve, should not readily grasp all the simple movements of military drill. I do not wish to reproach my hon. friend from Carleton for not having a boy; possibly I should sympathize with him, certainly I would not be harsh with him; but his fear is a good deal like that of the dear old maids, who, as we all know, are always the best posted in the management of children. These old maids and old bachelors are the people whom we find best able to advise us when it comes to a question of how the children should be brought up.

Mr. CARVELL. I do not come under the hon. gentleman's condemnation; I am not entirely without children.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Then I am sure the hon. gentleman will agree with me in the policy I lay down. If we wish

children to be a success, whether boys or girls, we must trust them. No boy or girl ever attained high citizenship otherwise. If you want a boy to be a man, trust him. My experience in handling boys and men is that I have trusted the fellows and they have never betrayed the trust.

Now, as to liquor in camp, my experience is that the men in camp who are a disgrace to the service—and unfortunately there are many of them—do not learn in camp to drink liquor; they do not take liquor for the first time in camp. They are the men whom some careless officers, neglectful of their business, have picked up in the last day or two before they go to camp or have had them picked up by the bartenders and sent out as part of their command. These are the men who are a disgrace to the clean, decent fellows who go to camp. I do not wish to particularize my own regiment—

Mr. LEMIEUX. If I may be permitted, is it not forbidden to use liquor in camp?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The sale of liquor in camp is forbidden.

Mr. BELAND. Not the drinking?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). No. But liquor is not sold in camp. The abuse of liquor in camp is not very pronounced at any time according to my experience; I have not known many camps in which it has been much abused. But a man in uniform is seen drunk—he probably got his liquor down town—and the cry at once is raised, 'There is the soldier.' 'It is the camp that has done that.' But the same man at home would probably be intoxicated for hours as against minutes of intoxication in camp. Such a man is a disgrace to civilization, but it is not the camp that has made him so. The United States Military Engineering Corps has charge of all public works, appropriations for the rivers and harbours works of the United States. General McClellan, who was a member of that corps, making a speech at one of the annual gatherings, was able to state that, although hundreds of millions of dollars had been expended by the engineering corps, not a man had been unfaithful to his trust. And this good condition, he attributed largely to the military training instilled into these men as boys. The officer at the head of the Engineering Corps to-day is able to state that in the entire record of the Engineering Corps, made up of the best military engineers in the land, there has never been but one man who proved himself unfaithful to his trust, and never a dollar was required from them in the way of guarantee.