

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: These are treated as seasonal classes, not as individuals.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Here is the joke: the men called up are not joining the army at all.

Hon. Mr. KING: Yes, many of them.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: No. They are going home as soon as their thirty days' training is over. They have to be taken back by their employers. They are not sworn to be servants of the Crown from that time on.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: They are when called upon.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It is only an outing. To give the impression that under compulsion of law these men we are to train will be soldiers in the army from the day they are called up, is to my mind absurd. In the first place you could no more train 300,000 soldiers than fly to the moon. I happen to know this—and there is no one who does not: we cannot train the men we have now authorized to be trained. It is impossible to equip them even to the extent the First Division was equipped when it went over; and that division was not trained at that time, but only starting to be trained. We cannot provide training and equipment to-day for the Second Division; we cannot for the Third.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: This is for the militia.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Very good. If there is no serious purpose, those fellows will be no further ahead than when they started; their mobilization will be only an outing. I know a man in a city in Canada whose whole heart and soul are in the war. He has begged the Minister, of whom he is a personal friend, to permit some of the officers of the First Division to come back and help train one of the regiments which are represented in that division, because otherwise the regiment cannot get training even with the paltry equipment we have here. He cannot get that done. I do not think the Minister's reasons are sound, but they are perfectly understandable. The Minister says: "We cannot take these men out. It is not fair to them, nor to those over there." The other man takes the ground: "That may be, but this training is vital; we have to reinforce those boys over there." But the training is not being given.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Reinforcements are being trained and quite a number have been sent across.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I will show my honourable friend a copy of the correspondence. A mere thousand men out there, and we cannot get them trained! The fact is the men of the Permanent Force were taken into the First Division, and now we cannot train the men who are determined to go over and join their brothers in the same regiment in England. In face of that, what moonshine it is to talk of training 300,000 men and calling up so many in this or that division! We have nobody to train men.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: What would you do?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I would get so many men into the army, and keep them there, and train them as fast as we can, and not attempt to train 300,000 men. The expense of training that number, even for three months, will be terrific, and then you will not have a fraction of those men permanently. You should get your men into training to fight. I do not know how you are going to clothe them. With the thermometer at 90 and over in Toronto, the soldiers were in their winter uniforms. We talk about training. Are you going to have the men in mufti while training them? I do not know that it would be so very terrible, but it would not be creditable to the country. The point is, there are not facilities here for adequate training. Why partly train 300,000 when you do not know whether you can get 10,000 of them in shape to fight? To my mind it is a paper proposition. On that basis it does not matter who compose the tribunal, for the men called will realize they are being taken, not for war training, but for an outing.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I would respectfully make this suggestion to the Government. A large number of veterans who fought in the last war have passed the age when they can be enlisted or considered A-1 risks. They are not physically fit, but I think they would serve the purpose as fairly experienced trainers, having themselves learned what war is. It seems to me that the Department of National Defence should give favourable consideration to these veterans when they offer their services.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think my right honourable friend has never served as a soldier.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: No.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am on an equal footing with him. I want to ask him whether he or I would dare tell the Department of National Defence, with its staff of men who