

# EVENTS

*Published Weekly.*

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Vol. 8, No. 7.

OTTAWA, AUG. 12, 1905.

Whole No. 333

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## *Conscription and Militaryism in England.*

**I**N his speech in the House of Lords, July 10, on the inefficiency of the British army Lord Roberts appealed "to the people" not to return any man to parliament "upon whom they cannot depend to make a study of the services the armed forces may have to perform." This is a new qualification for civilian members of the House of Commons. Economic questions, education, the housing of the poor, the conciliation of Ireland, and the numerous questions affecting agriculture—studies of these or any of them is beneath a soldier's notice. Field Marshall Roberts concluded by advocating a Reserve that would include "the manhood of the country generally", and he left it to the people to say "whether this should be brought about by conscription or by some system of universal training". By the way what is the difference? He wanted the people to "identify themselves with the Army" as

did the people of other countries. The other countries are, of course, Germany, from whose system 2,000,000 fled to America twenty years ago and have steadily been fleeing ever since, France whose material prosperity has been retarded by bloody and costly wars; Austria, whose parliament is an object of ridicule throughout the civilized world, and others that might be named. Napoleon would have a military empire as had the Romans, but England has grown great and rich with an empire where industry and commerce and individual rights and internal reforms received the chief attention of the people, of parliament, and of governments led by the best and wisest statesmen of the Victorian era. an era described by historians as the most glorious the world has ever seen. That Canadians may have an opportunity of reading Earl Roberts' speech in full we propose to reproduce it next week.