

Militarism and Anti-Militarism

Prof. Maurice Hutton, principal of University College, Toronto, is an educator of long experience and has given the subject of physical and elementary military training much thought. Therefore his conclusions are worthy of careful consideration. In December, 1912, he addressed the Montreal Canadian Club on the subject, and by kind permission of the "University Magazine," we are permitted to present the following extracts :

THE TESTIMONY OF HISTORY.

Two thousand years and more have passed since a state not unlike in many ways the Great Britain of to-day, full of commerce, science, and literature, of art, logic and poetry, of theatres, and even of athletes, went down in final and fatal ruin before an army of rude and simple soldiers, soldiers who were their inferiors in everything except in self-control, self-denial, and self-reliance, and in the knowledge of the use of arms. Athens fell before the common soldiers of Philip of Macedon, the Bismarck of ancient Greece ; before the wood-rangers, lumbermen and charcoal burners of Macedonia. Athens perished because she would not leave her theatres and her parliament ; her statues and her statutes ; her paintings and her plebiscites ; her poets and her philosophers, to face the drudgery of military service. She would not fight her own battles. Thessalians and Arcadians, the adventurers of the plains and the adventurers of the mountains, might do the fighting for her ; she would have none of it.

A CANADIAN DEFENCE LEAGUE.

The propositions which a Defence League puts before Canada amount to the following :

1. That historically in the past the nations which have despised and rejected military training, as tiresome and tedious for intellectual men, or unworthy of righteous and religious men. Ancient Athens, modern China before the Japanese war, modern France before the Franco-German war, have suffered either fearfully or irremediably, irredeemably, from their lofty intellectualism or moral idealism ; have lost their independence, or have lost enough to make them repent in sackcloth and ashes.