

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): Answer the question.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: May I point out that a few years ago when there was trouble in Ireland, when there were certain organizations which were bound to overturn the government by force, and when there were certain people, even in high places, who were actually advocating the overthrow, and other people drilling troops in order to effect the overthrow, there were sympathetic organizations in this country. There is no doubt about that.

Mr. LAVERGNE: The Irish took their medicine.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: In answer to the question I would say that there were people in this country who believed the Irish would have to resort to force in order to retain their rights.

Mr. BURY: The hon. member has not answered my question. It was this: If a man believed in force as a means of overthrowing lawful authority and institutions, and joined a society which held such beliefs as its professed and avowed object, would he not be doing more than merely believing in force? Would he not be committing an overt act by associating himself with these doctrines, and by his membership would he not be doing his best to advocate and propagate those beliefs?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Personally I do not think so, and at the same time I say that so far as I am concerned I am opposed to force. On the very days that we have been considering this section of the criminal code, we have been considering at other times our national defence estimates. Some of the very men who have been urging the retention of this section have been very intent on keeping up our defence forces and even training our boys and girls in the use of arms in order that they may be prepared to defend their country.

An hon. MEMBER: Who is training girls?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, there is some training of girls going on along the same line even in this city. I think some of us may be permitted to take the other view, that after all trouble arises very largely because of certain maladjustments in our social structure, and that the way to deal with these things is not by repressive measures but rather by getting rid of the causes of the evils. Some of us honestly take that point of view. We take it in connection with international questions; we say that instead of maintaining standing armies we should adopt those methods that will bring about a larger measure of international amity and by removing those causes which everyone knows produce war.

Mr. MORAND: That is not contentious at all.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Very well. Some of us take that point of view in international affairs, and some of us take the same point of view in connection with the communists. There are certain injustices under our society to-day that so long as they continue inevitably will breed contempt of law. We take the ground that instead of trying to suppress these people in this way, by deporting those who are deportable and by putting the others in the penitentiary, we should be removing the causes of the injustice. In that way I think we will do away with the troubles we are experiencing at the present time. A good many hon. members seem to think that if they are only well enough guarded all this trouble will cease. I would point out to them that nearly all revolutions and civil wars of the past have been precipitated by those who have been closely associated with or trained by the military. It is doubtful whether we would have had the successful revolution in Russia, according to those who were there at the time, had it not been that a large number of soldiers were returning from the front, and they played a very prominent part at that time.

Mr. LAVERGNE: That is not very sound history.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for forty minutes.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Perhaps I might have just a moment more.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go ahead.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I was interrupted for nearly five minutes, so perhaps I might be given two or three minutes more. I was going to say that I have been in close contact with labour men, some of whom are very radical, and I believe there is a real danger if we allow force to be exerted along present lines. Perhaps I might take just one incident from the Winnipeg strike. I knew nothing of the details of the conduct of that strike until after I had acted as editor for a few days, when I was admitted to the committee. One day, I remember, a group of returned men came into the room and urged that the labour people should drop their policy of peace and "start something", as they put it. They said, "We are men of action. We have just got back from the front and we are tired of your policy of peace and inaction." I am very proud of the labour men who were present; they said, "No, that would be fatal to the conduct of our strike." The returned