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Protests Against Militarism.

THE struggle against militarism is the history of the contest between barbarism and civilization, between the primal savage instinct and the influence of religion, education and moderation. There are times when war will force itself on men of peace, a great principle being at stake, but at all times, in all countries, there are contentious men who would roll back the gates of the temple of Janus for mere love of the sound of bugles and the flash of swords.

In the Parliament of Canada there was heard this week an echo of this endless struggle. Mr. Bourassa wanted to limit the number of the militia to 50,000 so that if the government wanted to increase the number it must come to parliament. The present strength of the militia is 46,000. Mr. Bourassa thought it absurd that we should organize this country on a war footing to anticipate an attack from the United States. As Mr. Bourassa's views were twisted before his face in the House they will be completely warped on the stump, so we quote his view as to our volunteers, as follows:—

What I think perfectly legitimate and proper is to keep up in our population a proper spirit as to their duties in regard to the defence of the country, and to endeavor to induce a greater number of our young men, without drawing them from their peaceful avocations, to take up rifle practice. I think that is the foundation principle of our defence.

We will quote here an excellent extract from a leading article in the TorontoGlobe of the 11th inst. as follows:—

To be sure the militarists will ring the changes on Lord Dundonald's words about Canadians living in "a fool's paradise." That is irrational and futile talk. No intelligent Canadian lives in a fool's paradise with regard to our frontier defences. Everybody knows that from ocean to ocean along our four thousand miles of international boundary there is neither a fort nor a gun, except the relics of a bygone age. We proclaim that defenceless state to all the world. We glory in it. The defences of these sister nations one against the other are not in the make-believes of barbarism, but in the growing intelligence of both people; their common kinship and heritage, the intertwining of their commercial, industrial and social interests, the instincts of humanity that dominate their private life, and the Christian ideals that inspire their civilization. If abiding faith in such