

of any given age, unless it is compulsory. It must be compulsory. All, or nearly all, our laws are compulsory. The laws respecting education in most of our provinces are compulsory. The laws respecting juries, in fact the great bulk of our laws, are compulsory. To talk of non-compulsory military service is a contradiction in terms. There are a great many men who would not take the trouble to drill. These people who do not drill, do not realize how much they are losing. If you look at the men you see in the streets, it is only about one man out of four who knows how to walk. If the others were drilled a bit, they would soon know how to walk properly. Again, and of much more importance, military service teaches our young people the virtue of obedience and gives them an idea of discipline—two things that are most necessary always, and that are lacking to a very great extent to-day.

The Burden of National Defence

By Rev. John Lochhead, M.A., Westmount, Que.

I am preaching to-day at the invitation of the Canadian Peace and Arbitration Society, yet from some of the views propagated by that Society I cannot but absolutely and even scornfully disassociate myself. One of these is that Canada should take no part in the defence of the Empire, devoting herself instead to her own financial development. That, I think, is a mischievous opinion, and worse than mischievous, dishonorable. Canada, hitherto, has been as a child in her mother's house. She has been defended. Now that she has entered on her maturity she must share the burden of the family, or forfeit her self-respect. The most pressing of these burdens to-day is defence. If she chooses to break the family connection for selfish reasons, severing herself from the Empire, she will have to defend herself, or, again, rest under the shadow of another, the United States, in which case her honor would be doubly forfeited. False to her history, false to herself, and for what? That she might set the world an example of peace? The world would scorn her example. Not peace, they would say, but parasitism and base self-seeking.

But this sentiment of the Canadian Peace Society is, it seems to me, fairly typical of peace societies in general. The leaders of these societies are too often apt to be extremists, and, like all extremists, the worst enemies of