

## That "Fools' Paradise"

**I**N his statement to the public Lord Dundonald undertook to say that Canadians were living in a fools' paradise if they imagined they had a militia force of any value. Seeing that the militia of Canada have time and again proved their value we can put the earl's statement down as a piece of rhetoric. Aside from this we had a little evidence in parliament as to what this country is doing to improve its militia. Mr. Monk, one of the leading Conservative members, stated that during the past three years we had spent \$10,000,000 on the militia and this year we were spending \$3,000,000. The minister of militia gave further facts as follows: The present government have increased the annual expenditure by between one and two million dollars. Ever since 1896 the government has trained the militia every year. They limited the term of commanding officers to five years, thereby giving the young men of the force some hope of reward for their services instead of permitting commanding officers to remain, 20, 30, and more years, fixed and immovable. A reserve list of officers has been established, a cadet corps and cadet battalions, thereby enlisting the sympathy of the youth of the country. A Defence Committee has been appointed which has propounded a scheme of defence that was adopted by the War Office. A general service medal had been procured as well as the colonial officer's long service decoration. The medical service branch has been established since 1896. A militia pension Act by which officers of the permanent force, and all men of the active militia will receive pensions was brought down by this government. A school of musketry has been established, rifle associations have been encouraged, and large sums of money have been expended on rifle ranges. The corps of guides, the engineer branch,

and the ordnance corps have been organized, as well as a military intelligence branch and a Dominion arsenal. The output of cartridges under one million rounds has been increased to an output of ten or twelve millions and the capacity of the factory is considerably more. The government encouraged and established a small arms factory which is turning out rifles now and will be able to supply the government with rifles at the rate of 1,000 a month with a capacity double that number. The government has established a factory for the manufacture of steel gun carriages, and in numerous other ways the interests and efficiency of the militia of Canada have been promoted. Sir Frederick Borden was certainly justified in saying that any fair minded man would readily admit that the present government was not open to the charge of indifference which Lord Dundonald in his haste and wrath brought against it.



Melting.

—Punch (London)