

## The Point of View.

Sir Frederick Borden, our enterprising Minister of Militia and Defence, desires universal military service for all the youths of Canada between the ages 16 and 19. I do not know what inspired Sir Frederick with so brilliant an idea. Maybe he has been to Europe and contracted the military fever, a fever which intoxicates the soul and glimmers the eyes with visions of martial glory. Like every other military expert Sir Frederick blusters about possible and impossible dangers, and urges the country to add brick after brick to the monstrous structure of militarism arising in this western hemisphere. Mr. Borden and his supporters assure us they have no intention of saddling this country with the militarism of Europe. They bring forth a proposal, a mild proposal they call it, that all boys before they reach their twentieth year shall receive a certain amount of military training. The most startling feature about this proposal is its mildness. There is nothing especially startling in obliging our boys to enter the ranks of the militia, but when one reflects what this step may lead to, the real significance of the scheme is brought into relief. The measure before us is but the thin edge of the wedge of the military systems of old world powers being driven into this country. Let us not be deceived on this point. Let us not be fooled into accepting in any way whatever the burdens of militarism which to-day are crushing the life blood and vitality out of the peoples of Europe.

Advocates of universal service trump up the argument that money spent for military purposes is a good investment in national insurance. A very plausible argument this! Did these worthy heads never reflect that militarism is rather an unsafe institution out of which to take an insurance policy. The chances of war are one to one that you will lose. Powder magazines, however large they be, are no guarantee that you yourself will not be blown up. The world's security lies not in arms, but in love. A nation's greatest security is to be had from friendly handshakes with other nations, not from showing its teeth. Canada's safety lies not in organizing armies and building armaments, but in cultivating friendly relations with foreign powers and urging upon the mother country arbitration treaties with alien governments for the amicable settlement of all disputes. The greatest fort for this any every other country to establish is the for of arbitration.

We should like to ask the Minister of Militia and Defence wherein lies the need of this additional protection to our country. If any danger really threatens us, nobody

will begrudge to dollars spent to ensure the adequate defence of our territory. But is this country menaced? If so, by whom? Some hint that we may look for trouble to the South, but what form that trouble will assume nobody ventures to say. But assuming that a fracas is to be expected with the American people, what show would six million people have against eighty-three million, what could 168,000 troops trained in their boyhood hope to do against the forces which the United States could hurl against us? If an armed conflict is forthcoming with Uncle Sam's republic, let our military authorities say so and propose a scheme of defence adequate for any contingency. Some look across the Atlantic and imagine they see in the military ideals of certain European powers a danger to Canada and the British Empire. To meet any danger from over-sea sources we require a fleet, not an army. If no danger threatens us from the United States, then why do we need an army? If danger does threaten us from thence, then why does not Sir Frederick bring forward a more comprehensive scheme of defence? It is for the reason about hinted at. He is afraid of provoking too much opposition by a bigger program. He knows this country will only swallow militarism by the spoonful. Mr. Borden and his colleagues doubtless have large schemes of military organization, of which the present measure is the first instalment. Let us nip his ideas in the bud by refusing to be gulled by the scheme he is at present presenting to the country.

Those who support Borden's universal military service scheme tell us it would benefit the country by developing a fine physique among

our young men. True, but is it not a rather costly way of going about it? The new military scheme would require an annual expenditure of at least \$3,000,000 about that now spent. Devote \$3,000,000 every year to endowing every school in the land with gymnasias and baths, every city with public baths and sanitary dwellings for the poor, and I reckon we would get more for our money than by sending our youths, the strongest youths, by the way, those who least need physical training, to armouries and barracks.

There is no danger threatening Canada sufficient to warrant an increase in our present military forces. We are not girt with foes as are the countries of Europe. Our neighbor to the South seeks no quarrel with us, and we seek no quarrel with them. We cannot afford to quarrel. If ties of blood and kindred institutions will not bind us together, the almighty dollar will. Commerce so knits the destiny of the two halves of North America together that a split is now inconceivable. Moreover, the workmen of the two countries will never consent to

spill each other's blood again. Organized labor would protest most strongly against such folly, as organized labor will now protest against Mr. Borden's militia schemes.

HENRI RASTELL

Chicago Typographical Union No. 16 has appointed a committee to call a monster mass meeting to protest against the wholesale injunctions which are being issued against labor unions throughout the country. One of the resolutions passed at its last meeting reads as follows: "Unless the abuse of legal power shall be quickly stopped the nation must either deteriorate morally, socially and physically, or reassert itself by means of a revolution, the force and extent of which can only be conjectured." The injunction recently issued against No. 16 by Judge Holdom will be appealed to the highest courts.

There seems to be every likelihood that the Journeymen Tailors' Union and the Garment Workers' International Union will become one organization with one label. There are about 65,000 members in both organizations, and a merging of interests would mean the strengthening of both organizations.

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