and public interest in time would do its work in promoting increased knowledge of this phase of national policy.

Next we must look more narrowly at this naval militia which we have been discussing at large. There are the seamen proper of course, the total number of these in Canada being 10,000; the Atlantic coast has over 6,000 men described in the census as fishermen; and there must be enough seashore farmers, etc., to bring our numbers up to the 20,000 I have mentioned. From so large a body of men it should be practicable to raise a naval militia of several thousand. There seems no reason to apprehend difficulties as to training. The winter, for example, should furnish an excellent training season; in it the customary vocations of many of the men who would enlist are suspended, and the drill period might be welcomed as a change, and as a means of making a little additional money.

In addition to this element of excellent seamen, there must be a certain number of men whose occupations fit them for service as stokers; such men would form an essential portion of any naval militia. Mechanics, electricians, and other skilled tradesmen also would be useful. We might avail ourselves of another element in the population. The Maritime Provinces must contain a number of young men who, without being seamen, yet are sufficiently at home upon the water not to get sea-sick on finding themselves on a heaving deck and who could be trained to some duties, such as the handling of guns. Thus it seems practicable to find the men for a naval militia several thousand strong, seamen, stokers, artificers, naval artillery; such a force could fit into a permanent professional force and could strengthen it immensely.

Next we must consider the professional element.

It would be too flattering to say that we have a beginning in our fisheries protection fleet; it comprises a few very small vessels of no fighting value, and actually inferior as sea-boats and for training purposes to torpedo vessels. At present this force seems to have little or none of the