

with dispatch. In short, a perfect machinery for the suppression of political disturbance did not then exist. Therefore, Metternich's minions only executed individuals here and there, or placed them in the kind of prison which Silvio Pellico has described. Now, we live in an age of high centralization—an age in which established governments have at their command all sorts of agencies for dealing swift and sudden death on a large scale to their opponents. There exist at least provisional data to show that in the course of the Great War the Hapsburgs put to death some 60,000 people for political offences. It is the era of the machine gun, when street risings can be checked quickly by those who have at their disposal the requisite machinery.

Apparently it is the machine gun which enables the Bolsheviks to retain power in Russia. A high political centralization in the hands of men who are undeterred by conscience or humanity renders it possible for a *de facto* established régime to wipe out over night hundreds of its opponents, taking off at one sweep of the scythe the leaders, thus leaving the rank and file disorganized.

It is not altogether fanciful to conjecture that were mankind to cast aside the restraints placed upon it by decency and good will, the machine gun and other like agencies might render possible a recrudescence of militaristic anarchy under a guise not unlike that which wrought havoc in the Roman Empire during the third century.

Let us hope that considerations of this sort are purely fanciful. None the less, the world ought to see to it that the Machine Gun is not permitted to supersede Parliament in the sphere of politics.

C. W. C.

EDUCATION One of the most celebrated sentences that the
IN THE war called forth is President Wilson's about mak-
PROVINCE
OF QUEBEC ing the world safe for democracy. Without commenting on the criticism which has been or may be passed on this ideal, recent events in different countries have shown how