

lum is denied the most important discipline of civil life. Its benefits accrue at every turn, not only in deportment, and physical improvement, but in determining the mental attitude on important questions. All military discipline inculcates the spirit of obedience, of consideration, and of compromise. It is a foe to selfishness and develops as nothing else can that spirit of altruism which is of the age. Hitherto the greatest foe to military training has been trades unionism, which entertains the mistaken idea that because the military, and even the regular soldier, were liable to be called upon to quell disorder in connection with strife they were necessarily enemies of labour. More enlightened counsels already prevail, and are leading to the general adoption of Lord Roberts' view that the duty of a true patriot is first to his country and after that, may be, to his class. There is little doubt that Lord Roberts' message will sink deep into the hearts of all loyal Canadians and will strengthen the hands of those who are labouring for efficient military service, as the first step towards defence of the Empire.

The Fernie Fire.

The civilized world has been stirred by the recital of the great catastrophe which overtook Fernie a short time since, a catastrophe so overwhelming that while the loss of life is happily nominal, the loss of property runs into more millions than can yet be estimated, and the anguish and suffering are such as cannot be expressed in words. In a few hours seven thousand people were rendered homeless and almost penniless. Every life was in danger and only by the exercise of the most splendid courage was a holocaust prevented. This all happened a few weeks ago and at the moment of writing every person has been adequately supplied with food and clothing, temporary shelter has been afforded, and more than one hundred houses are under construction. Help has flowed in from every part of the world, and apart from the loss of life it is hardly possible to regret the other consequences of the fire in view of the magnificent object lesson afforded

both by the people of Fernie themselves and by the thousands who have rushed to their aid. There may be much to deplore in Canadian public life, but how far the canker worm is from the heart is well illustrated by the promptness and fulness of the response of the whole country to the dire need of a little western town buried between the ranges of the Rockies. No finer exemplification of courage and optimism has ever been recorded nor any wider display of practical sympathy. That country is all-right which can produce citizens of the calibre of those who fought an overwhelming forest fire at Fernie. The name of their city destroyed and that of their city already rising from smoking embers will be engraved in eternal brass.

Reviving Trade.

The highest financial authorities in Canada unhesitatingly declare that trade is reviving. When such men as Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Mr. Byron E. Walker and Mr. Robert Meighen agree to any financial proposition their conclusions may safely be accepted. Mr. Walker, who is in a sense the greatest financial expert of the three, and possibly the highest banking authority in Canada, states that by the first of the year money will be easy, and that from that time on nothing is necessary to ensure prosperity but economy and caution. The evidences of improving trade are not far to find: they consist in constantly increasing transportation returns, numerous enquiries for investments, and the optimistic spirit engendered by the certainty of a good crop. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy pointed out recently that the period of depression in railway circles had passed, and that each month hereafter would show an improving margin between gross and net returns. Mr. C. M. Hays, the General Manager of the Grand Trunk, speaking at the annual meeting of the shareholders when the dividend on ordinary stock had to be passed, stated that for some months past the returns of his Company had improved rapidly, and the latter part of the current year would show up much better than the former. Increased activity is observable in all our industrial