

County Council, and Lord Derby was Mayor of Liverpool. You will find throughout Scotland also that some of the best men are serving their municipalities. I sometimes make comparisons, not quite satisfactory to myself, between our municipal officers and the municipal officers of the Old Land. I know many of them in the Old Country, and they are men of the greatest wealth and position.

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE.

"The defence of the nation is the higher field. It is first the cultivation of a national spirit. That is the foundation of the whole question, for without a national spirit people would not move for the defence of the nation. Without a national spirit money could not be obtained by taxation for the nation; and without a national spirit nobody would care whether the nation prospered or whether it failed. It is very much to be regretted that the national spirit in Canada is not reaching that high ideal of activity and enthusiasm which many of us would like, and yet it is pleasant to think that the national spirit has grown very much in the last 25 or 30 years. There was a time when we could scarcely say that we had a national soul of our own. We were like infants crying for the light. Our system of transportation was entirely inadequate, and nobody seemed to care whether Canada prospered or not. There came an awakening, however. It came with Confederation. Then we began to feel that we had a future. We began to reach out eastward and westward until we embraced the whole country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. As years rolled on we began to realize our possibilities; we began to think it was possible for Canada to be a nation. I hope there are no doubts in regard to that now.

"The national spirit is what makes us a strong nation. I am glad that the Defence League has at heart the cultivation of a national spirit, holding before our young men ideals of purity and manliness, of public service and industry, without which the better elements of society could not prevail, and without which they could not effectively govern. There are two or three elements essential to a national spirit in Canada: a reasonable toleration for mixed races and diverse creeds; we have too much to do to quarrel among ourselves. We want to be united in a common basis. The British Empire is the best defender of the home in the world. Let us not, however, fear about Canada so long as we pour into the general estate a wealth of physical and intellectual strength.