

Mr. Chairman, if that radical departure in our military organizations had been proposed by the late government, you know as well as I do, what denunciations would have been heard in our old province of Quebec. The bugbear of militarism would have been exposed, and to my mind with some measure of justification.

As for me, I agree with those hon. gentlemen who have taken a stand against this new system of enrolling all our young men under the flag of militarism.

Our population is not enormous enough, our country's development has not reached such a point as to justify such an extravagant expenditure for military purposes. In brief the requirements of our agriculture are too great to allow our government to divert from its proper use such a considerable amount.

I also object to that part of the estimates providing for the purchase of automobiles for officers in the militia. Such an expenditure will not meet with the approval of the people. My hon. friend is quite enthusiastic when military requirements are being dealt with; but surely he does not wish his officers to wage war in autos. I do not think the Canadian people will approve of such extravagant expenditure. I take strong exception to the new policy expounded by the Minister of Militia and I appeal to my hon. friends on the other side, especially those representing Quebec constituents if they were serious, to join with me and bring their influence to bear on the minister, so that he will cut down his estimates to a reasonable figure.

Mr. E. PAQUET (L'Islet). (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to address the House on this question, but I see my hon. friend from Kamouraska has suddenly become greatly concerned with the interest of the farming class. However, the hon. member, in the course of last session did not find a word of criticism to utter in connection with the report of General French. That officer was sent to Canada to completely reorganize our militia. His conclusions are towards increasing the expenditure in this connection. According to General French, there should be, in the first place, a body of 100,000 men and then a reserve of 100,000 more. That report was brought down and laid on the table of the House, and the hon. member had not a word of reproof for the right hon. gentleman who was then leader of the House. During the campaign in Drummond-Arthabaska, I pointed out that while only one million was spent in aid of agriculture, six millions were being expended on the

militia. While not approving entirely the increased expenditure on the militia, I must congratulate the government on having given their first thought to the farming community, and framing a policy which will ensure the improvement of our national highways and at the same time, bring about the agricultural progress of Canada.

Mr. VERVILLE. I wish all the members of the House had as much knowledge of militarism as I have, which is none at all. The hon. member for L'Islet (Mr. Paquet) takes great pride in the present government for what they have done for the agricultural classes and the improvements of country roads, but so far I have not seen them do anything for the labouring people of Canada.

An hon. MEMBER. What about the automobiles.

Mr. VERVILLE. The government did not give the labouring people any automobiles. I cannot blame the government for buying those automobiles, because, as I understand it, the wars of the future will be so conducted that the rank and file will be placed in front to be killed and the gentlemen with the automobiles can run away. I say, Sir, that any province that will allow a system of education of its children in militarism, by taking a child ten or twelve years old and teaching him how to handle a gun and shoot his fellow-man, ought to be censured by this parliament or any other parliament. I am sure that you will find a vast majority of the fathers and mothers of this country against any such proposal. I claim that the children in the schools are learning too fast how to kill their fellow-men, and that it would be much better for the government of Canada and much better for the country, if, instead of giving a penny a month to the Labour Department, they would spend more money on it and less on guns. It would be much better for the government of this country to educate the children in economics than to teach them how to shoot. Now then, it might be said that I make this statement now and I did not make it when the Liberals were in power, but I want to tell hon. gentlemen that I have always stood with the labouring people of this country in condemnation of this system. In the name of one million heads of families whose children will be wanted for this service, I protest against the promulgation of the doctrine of militarism.

Mr. BURNHAM. It is acknowledged the world over that the expenditure of money in training people to kill each other is prima facie absurd. I should not like for my part the impression to go abroad in