

still greater importance almost, the spirit of patriotism and the sense of duty would be quickened in the nation and in time of difficulty young men would rush to the ranks and compulsion would be unnecessary. Moreover, by the training of young men no military caste or profession would be created which would desire war. There are a number of people who are terribly afraid of militarism. Now if I felt in the smallest degree that any suggestion made by me would increase the danger of war I should certainly not advocate it, but I feel perfectly certain that the very reverse would be the case. Foreign newspapers assert that we are much more likely to go to war than any other nation, from the very fact that so large a proportion of our population know that under no circumstances could they suffer in their bodies by war. Whether that be true or not it is difficult to say, but if every lad were trained to arms and taught that it was his duty, if necessary, to volunteer for the service of the country he would think twice before he went to a music hall and waved a British flag with a view to create a war simply and solely for the sake of glory. He would have to take part in that war, and he would think twice before he rushed into it. In other words, there would be much less chance of militarism if our youths were trained to arms and knew in some degree what war meant, with all its horrors. There would indeed, be much less vicarious pseudo-patriotism which calls for war, and which, when blows are struck, is willing to shelter itself behind the professional army. The sense of duty and moral responsibility would be quickened.

What do we see taking place in Japan? The spirit of Japan has been an object lesson to the world and it is to be hoped that we are learning from it. It is not altogether to the military efficiency of the Japanese army, in the sense of great preparations, that their success has been due.

The success has been attained in great measure in the schools of Japan. Ever since the revolution in 1867, day by day 'Bushido,' or the spirit of chivalry, has been taught in the schools—a system which includes the inculcation of patriotism, obedience to authority, and self-sacrifice. The children are taught that the individual is nothing, and that the state is everything.

I have read too within a day or two an article upon practically the same subject by Lord Roberts. I have here a quotation which I shall read.

I maintain that it is the bounden duty of the state to see that every able-bodied man in this country, no matter to what grade of society he may belong, undergoes some kind of military training in his youth sufficient to enable him to shoot straight and carry out simple orders if ever his services are required for the national defence.

I shall quote further one or two words on this important subject from Lord Roberts in a letter written on the 9th day of June:

For these reasons I am convinced that it is a matter of the highest importance not only to the regular army and the auxiliary forces of this country, but to the empire at large that rifle shooting should be made a national pursuit and skill with the rifle a national accom-

plishment in the same manner that archery and skill with the long bow were so considered in the olden days in England. . . . In the United States a national board for the promotion of rifle practice has been formed and plans were approved last year for the encouragement of rifle shooting in the state militia throughout all civil and military schools and amongst all civilian adults by which to quote the words of a circular signed by the Secretary for War, it is proposed 'to educate our young men and boys over fifteen years of age to be an army of expert rifle shots,' and it is believed that, by this way, the United States will within a few years have more than one million men who will have for practical purposes on the line of battle nearly all the requirements for the most efficient soldiers in the world.

And again in the same letter:

I am satisfied that unless some system of obligatory physical training and instruction in rifle shooting be enforced in all schools and colleges and amongst the youth of the country generally, up to the age of eighteen years, we shall be compelled to resort to conscription in some form or another. . . . The proposed system of rifle clubs and physical training must prove the greatest possible benefit to the nation for they would greatly tend to increase the intelligence of the masses, develop their physique and inculcate habits of order and discipline besides providing a reserve of efficient marksmen.

And so I might go on but I shall not detain the committee. I would commend to any hon. gentleman who is interested in this subject this letter of Lord Roberts which is published in the 'Times' and also in the 'Daily Telegram' of June 12 last.

I propose at the earliest possible moment to have a conference with the representatives of the different provinces to see whether anything can be done in this direction. I intend to do this before another session of parliament comes around. I would perhaps feel disposed to make another suggestion if I were not afraid of being misunderstood and misreported, but I think at the risk of being misunderstood and being charged with having made the statement that I am in favour of conscription, I would go a step further and suggest for the consideration of the committee whether the young men of Canada under the age of 21 who have not yet seriously begun the work of life, might not fairly be asked to give free annual trainings in the militia to the country or an equivalent. If they receive a training which I hope to be able to arrange for in the schools it might not be necessary, but it seems to me that it might not be too much to ask of them that prior to the age of 21 something of this kind should be done by the young men of the country. I think it would only be necessary to put the matter properly before them in order to secure that something will be done which will not cost the country very much money and which will give the country a force the very best it could possibly