

An Essential Element in Citizenship

Mr. L. S. Amery, a Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, a member of the British House of Commons, and for some time military critic on the "London Times" staff, made the following statements in an address at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, in September, 1910. The position of Mr. Amery, on the staff of the world's greatest paper, required knowledge, experience and discretion. These extracts are, therefore, the conclusions of a man of careful and accurate processes of thought and observation. He said :

DEFENCE IS PRODUCTIVE WORK.

The defence of one's country is an essential part of national life—an essential element in citizenship. We so often come across the view, both in writing and in speeches, that all the effort or expenditure that a nation undertakes for its defence is a mere burden, a drain upon its prosperity, unavoidable perhaps, but certainly to be regretted. We are continually told that the national expenditure of money and effort on defence is a purely unproductive expenditure. Now that is an entirely wrong point of view to take. The work of defence done by citizens in the defence of their country, is just as much productive work as that done by the doctor who defends us against disease, the lawyer who defends us against injustice, the architect or builder, who provides our defence against the weather. Of course there have been occasions when nations have wasted their substance and their energies unduly on military work, just as there have been occasions when they have wasted their substance and strength in other ways.

BURDEN LESSENED BY IMPERIAL CONNECTION.

Canada certainly has something for her citizens to defend. She has institutions which we consider the best in the world. She has an immense future on this continent. She has before her the whole inheritance of the British Empire. These are things well worth defending, things worth making the greatest sacrifices for. But at the same time, just because of her connection with the Empire, Canada is not called upon to make as great a sacrifice as most other countries are. The burden of Canada, as long as she remains a part of the Empire, will never be so great as if she stood alone. It will never be so great as to interfere with the development of her material prosperity.