

The Scope of Defence

Senator, the Hon. Sir Geo. W. Ross was one of the speakers at the first convention of the Canadian Defence League (Ontario Division) held in Toronto, Sept. 9th, 1910. He took a broad view of the possibilities of the League, and from his address are taken the following extracts. Sir George Ross has made for himself so distinguished a place and name in Canadian affairs that no words of formal introduction are required or, indeed, expected. He said, in part:

"I am delighted to know that an organization such as I have the honor of addressing, has been formed. I think there is a place for it in Canada.

THE HOME.

"The Defence League begins with the home. I don't know a better place to begin. In modern civilization the rural districts are being vacated. The people are leaving the farms and migrating towards our towns and cities. Every page in British history, (and in ancient as well as modern history), is written with the dangers and losses to the national life through this profuse migration from the country. Is there anything that this League could do to idealize the rural home and to make the young men of Canada more contented? There might be inaugurated in our colleges, particularly our agricultural colleges, a course of lectures devoted to the beautifying and sanitation of Canadian homes. I sometimes think that, in the great race just now for peasant proprietorship and for the distribution of those large estates in Great Britain amongst small owners, when that takes place, as possibly it may in the rush of Socialism, England will be robbed of much of her beauty, and much of her rural honor. But we must wait and see. The defence of our home in making it attractive and beautiful might very well be the subject of a pamphlet by this League. Its wide distribution would add to the securing of that ideal citizenship.

MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL NEEDS.

"Then you say we owe a duty to the municipality, and to the Province, and here there is a very wide field for work by this League. How is it that in our municipalities it is so difficult to get men of wealth and position to serve the municipality? It is not so in the Old Country, to the same extent, at least, nor even in the adjoining republic. Lord Rosebery was chairman of the London