



THE CADET SYSTEM IN SCHOOLS.

There are Canadians who object to the introduction of cadet drill into the schools because they think it develops a spirit of militarism. Experience has proved that this view is incorrect. Boys thoroughly enjoy cadet work without any direct consciousness of its relationship to war. The boy thinks only of the immediate effort, the immediate discipline, and the immediate enjoyment, and not of any ultimate and distant possibility. This well known psychological principle has a most important bearing on the whole question of the desirability of introducing cadet work into the schools.

It should be remembered in this connection that soldiers do not cause war. Grave dissensions between nations result from differences between the political and financial leaders of different countries, not from anything the soldiers of the rival countries say or do. The soldier is not the war-monger. He is more likely to become the war-victim.

There are men who attack those who advocate cadet work in the schools, and who charge them with approving of "conscription." This charge has absolutely no foundation. The cadet system is a rational substitute for conscription. It avoids all the evils of conscription, and it develops the best elements of human power and character, while at the same time it secures all the supposed advantages of conscription in the most natural and the most thoroughly effective way. Those who attack the principle of universal training are evidently not aware of the fact that the law of Canada now recognizes the principle that all men, with comparatively few exceptions, are responsible for the defence of their country. Between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, inclusive, men are now, by law, liable to be called upon when necessary to do military service in the defence of their country. There is no logical basis for good citizenship but the one that recognizes a man's duties