

One youth organisation to gain positively from this sort of lobbying and sentiment was the school cadet movement, whose history has been traced by Roger Openshaw in his thesis 'The Patriot Band—the school cadets from their evolution to the Great War'.<sup>59</sup> The years 1902 to 1910, the period following George Hogben's educational reforms, was the 'heyday of cadets'.



*A School Cadet Corps: Wanganui Marist Brothers. (Tesla Collection)  
Photo Neg. 16929 $\frac{1}{4}$*

Openshaw estimates that some two-thirds of New Zealand males between 12 to 14 years donned cadet uniforms for weekly drills, and that in high schools the proportion was larger still.<sup>60</sup>

Openshaw describes the years 1909–1914 as a period of 'critical readjustment' for New Zealand as it faced up to the realities of defence—following the Dreadnought 'scare' of 1909—and moved from being a frontier-rural to an urban society.<sup>61</sup> The cadets were part of the country's 'cordon sanitaire' against outside threats and even against internal social problems such as larrikinism and working-class drunkenness. *Defence*, in February 1908, had been quick to point out that the 'Radical statesman', Sir John Gorst, although silent on the issue of universal training whilst in New Zealand, had come strongly out in favour of it on his return to Britain. Universal training, opined Gorst, 'would open the eyes of the country to the physique of the children, and they would be