

works so actuated as to be less adapted for protecting the Western and most wealthy portion of the Dominion. He was quite sure the honourable gentleman was not justified in making such an accusation, although it was true he (Mr. Mackenzie) had stated that the view of the Military Engineers was that the fortifications in the west should be confined to facilitating not the defence of the country, but merely the movements of the Imperial troops, to get a secure position for themselves. That was a view which would not give satisfaction to the Province of which he was one of the representatives. He felt, however, that the question of the defence of the country was one in which the interests of the whole people were involved, and he was disposed therefore to deal with it on the broadest possible grounds, as affecting not one section merely, but the whole community. (Hear, hear). He regretted that the question should have been brought before the House for the first time at so late a period of the session. Considering that they were now entering the fifth month of session, and had only now the resolutions placed before them by which they were to borrow a sum of five million dollars, for a purpose to which money had never before been applied in this country, he thought they had reason to complain that Government had not brought down these resolutions sooner, in order that they might not only have a more full discussion in this House than it was possible to obtain now, but also that they might have the benefit of that discussion which would no doubt take place in every part of the country, and the nature of which would be developed in the press. It seemed as if the Government had not brought in their resolutions earlier because they were afraid of an agitation which might be provoked in opposition to their measure. He thought in a matter of such very great importance it was absolutely necessary that we should consider the political position we now occupied. We were not now a small colony embracing merely an insignificant fraction of the population, of the empire. In point of population, this Dominion was now by far the largest British colony. We had now the only Parliament on British territory except the Imperial one. All the other Colonial legislative bodies were merely Provincial Legislatures, which could not be supposed to have that extensive interest in such matters which this Parliament must be presumed to have. He was not disposed therefore to discuss this question as he might have done in a former

era of our history, but desired to take that enlarged view of it which was suitable to our position as an independent Legislature in connection with the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain. The Minister of Militia said he did not think it necessary to enter into a discussion as to the propriety or necessity for works of this kind, but that he took it for granted that when the Imperial authorities declared such works to be necessary from their point of view, all this Legislature had to do was to act as nearly as possible in compliance with the demands of the Imperial Legislature. He (Mr. M.) denied that there was any such necessity incumbent upon us. He was not disposed to concede even to the Imperial Parliament the right to enforce on this Legislature the construction of such works of defence for this country as they might choose to deem necessary. In this matter, he conceived we had the same right as was insisted on by the Imperial Parliament itself in 1859, '60, '61 and '62, when it subjected to the closest scrutiny the propositions then made by the Imperial Government for the coast defence of Great Britain. The Government in that case felt it to be their duty to bring down the most minute details as to the works proposed to be erected. But our Government merely informs us that the Imperial officers declared certain works to be necessary, and that all we had to do was to vote the money for them. (Hear, hear). He thought our duty was to take the same course as had been taken in the Imperial Parliament, to investigate the necessity for the works, and to ascertain all necessary details as to their location, nature, extent, etc. But the very first point to be ascertained was the views of the Imperial Government as to the extent or cooperation they required from this country for its defence. Some time ago, a commission was appointed by the Imperial Government to examine this very subject, composed of Messrs. Hamilton, Gorley, and Elliot—the last named, he believed, being the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies—Messrs. Hamilton and Gorley agreed upon a report.

Their colleague, Mr. Elliot, differed from them to a certain extent. These gentlemen stated their belief that the duty of the Imperial Government to defend their colonies arose from the fact that any policy which could produce war, must necessarily be an Imperial policy, and that as the colonies could have nothing to do with a declaration of war, or with a cessation of war, the Imperial Government was bound to exercise