

tenant at will. That is his position. Now, I say that that position is altogether out of harmony with the constitutional principle which is intended to make the Governor independent of the control or interference of the Government here. The hon. gentleman will see that after the five years has expired the position of the Lieutenant-Governor is not at all the position of Lieutenant-Governor during the period of those five years; and the intention of the law is that Lieutenant-Governors should not be removable in any one of the provinces, although appointed during pleasure, except for cause. Now, that being so, the hon. gentleman will see that the position I took last year is a sound position, is a constitutional position, and every day that he permits Sir Leonard Tilley to remain as Lieutenant-Governor of the province is, in effect, violating the spirit and principle that was intended to govern the office of the Lieutenant-Governor under the British North America Act. It does seem to me that the Government are derelict in duty in allowing Sir Leonard Tilley to continue in the position that he now occupies, instead of appointing, under the great seal of the province, another party to take his place. It is true, as my hon. friend suggests, that the Government might have issued a new commission to Sir Leonard Tilley, and he would have been again holding office during the pleasure of the Crown for a period of five years, subject to removal only for cause; but that commission not having been issued, that is not his position. I do not say that Sir Leonard Tilley is not a proper party to have occupied that position. I admit that his long training in Parliament qualified him well for the office which he held as Lieutenant-Governor; but I do not suppose that the Government intend to introduce the principle of making Lieutenant-Governors for life. That is not the theory or principle that governs appointments by the Colonial Office. The intention was that the same rule should prevail here. What is a matter of simple regulation in the Colonial Office, is a regulation made by law in this country, and when the five years expired, a successor to Sir Leonard Tilley ought to have been appointed. Now, I think it is very desirable that the party who holds the office of Lieutenant-Governor, just as the party who holds the office of Governor-General of Canada, should be a gentleman of parliamentary experience, of parliamentary training, who knows the rules and principles of our system of parliamentary government, and knowing them, he would be qualified to discharge his duties, and would know what were his constitutional relations to his advisers and to the legislature. It does seem to me that the position taken by the Minister of Justice has not been well considered, and that the principle I stated last year is a sound principle, that is to say, that within a reasonable time after the period has expired, a successor should be appointed under the great seal, and holding

Sir JOHN THOMPSON.

his office independent of the Government except where he has abused the trust that has been reposed in him.

Mr. LAURIER. The principle which has been laid down by the Minister of Justice is one of great consequence. The hon. gentleman says that Sir Leonard Tilley has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick during the pleasure of the Crown. Well, that means simply that he is appointed for life and can remain there as long as the pleasure of the Crown will leave him there. But, Sir, the pleasure of the Crown never meant, in constitutional government, the caprice of the Crown. The pleasure of the Crown means some reasons whereby things should be done that need to be done. Although Sir Leonard Tilley has been appointed during the pleasure of the Crown, still at the end of five years there is one cause why it should be the pleasure of the Crown that he should be no longer Lieutenant-Governor, and that cause is that he has been holding his office for five years. Now, the hon. gentleman is aware that every day after the expiration of five years that a Lieutenant-Governor remains in office, there is a violation of constitutional government in this country as we have always understood it. If Sir Leonard Tilley is to be continued in office, let him be appointed by a new commission, and then there will be no difficulty. Sir Leonard Tilley is quite competent to fill the office. Personally he is quite acceptable to all parties and to all people. There could be no objection to reappointing him, but there is an objection in allowing him to remain there on sufferance day after day, or during the pleasure of the Crown, as the Minister terms it. Does the hon. gentleman contend, for instance, that the pleasure of the Crown is to be merely the caprice of the Crown? That if the Crown chooses to let Sir Leonard Tilley remain in his position for one year, or ten years, or twenty years, or all his life, they may do so? If that is the interpretation of the law, it should certainly be modified. But that is not the interpretation of the law, and the only conclusion we can come to, after the explanation of the hon. gentleman, is that for reasons better known to themselves, the Government are not prepared to make the appointment in New Brunswick. It may be that they find a difficulty in making an appointment among so many aspirants, but that is not a constitutional reason; and surely the hon. gentleman, if he will discharge the duties which he owes, not only to the people of New Brunswick, but to the people of Canada and to the Crown, he should advise His Excellency at once to make an appointment, whether it is Sir Leonard Tilley or some one else.

MILITIA SUPPLIES.

Mr. MULOCK. Before the House resolves itself into Committee of Supply, I would call attention to a matter in connection with the