

A most flagrant instance of political interference has occurred... The names of officers for the Scottish Light Dragoons were sent to Council by ME... The list having MY approval was returned with the name of one officer stricken off and initialed by the Minister of Agriculture... It is intolerable that MY recommendations should be so grossly interfered with by any Minister not connected with the Department. LORD DUNDONALD.

The General Officer Commanding recommends appointments, but his recommendations have no official value or effect until they are approved by the Minister and passed by the Governor in Council. SIR FREDERICK BORDEN.

Mr. Fisher was acting for and with the authority of the Minister of Militia, who was absent from the Capital, and therefore his action had all the force and authority of action by the responsible head of the Department of Militia and Defence. ORDER IN COUNCIL.

In removing Dr. Pickel's name from the list Mr. Fisher was not acting as Minister of Agriculture.

The list of officers sent to Council was composed almost exclusively of gentlemen connected with the Conservative party... This regiment was to be officered almost exclusively by Conservative politicians... Is it not proper that whenever a regiment is organized in any part of the country, it should be officered as far as possible by both parties? RT. HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

When I found political interference and preferment being introduced into this regiment, I protested against it. To that extent, and only to that extent, did I bring politics into the matter... Dr. Pickel's name was struck out because he was to be appointed to a responsible position which called for a man of military experience, and he had none. HON. SYDNEY FISHER.

He (Dundonald) says that he was subjected to interference. Interference, forsooth! Interference by whom? Interference by the regularly constituted authorities of the people, the people who were paying him for the services which he was supposed to be giving... He says this Government has shown crass indifference, and he arraigns me on that account. Well, Sir, it may be that to increase the annual expenditure on the Militia by some one and a half or two millions is a proof of crass indifference to the well being of the Militia, but I do not believe the people will take that view. I have a list of the improvements which we have made (see page 12). HON. SIR FREDERICK BORDEN.