

complaint is very trivial, we come to the case of Col. Gregory. That officer had applied for an extension of time as commanding the Second Dragoons. The minister of militia sent a short minute to the general officer stating that he did not desire the extension of Col. Gregory's time. This the general officer characterizes as "a most unusual procedure for a minister to adopt as it was entirely within the scope of my duty to recommend to Sir Frederick Borden what I considered best in the interests of the Second Dragoons from a military point of view." As the general violently complained unless his recommendations were adopted it follows that with him a recommendation carried its own approval. As the minister was responsible for every recommendation approved it is hard to consider it solely within the scope of the general's duty.

Although Lord Dundonald states that the whole details of the affair connected with the Scottish Light Dragoons in the eastern townships have already been made public he goes on to enter into a controversy with Mr. Sydney Fisher to the extent of half a column of type.

The remainder of the document is taken up with some references to the needs of the militia, a subject which has been discussed by various general officers commanding and by the minister in parliament and by commanding officers occupying seats in the House. The subjects mentioned in this section of the statement are even more trivial than some of the others. For instance, because certain plans or placards showing the position of soldiers in warfare printed about a year ago were not reprinted with alterations suitable to the ideas of a man whose reputation for changing his mind is notorious, he makes that a charge against the minister. Then follows a paragraph that is so unique, so wanting in good taste, so extraordinary as an effort by a British army officer to stir up discontent and disaffection in this country, that we think it worth while reproducing in full. It reads as follows:—

It may be a matter of indifference to some whether the militia lacks guns, rifles,

ammunition, equipment, and all that is necessary to make a fighting force efficient. It may be a matter of indifference to some whether the great Northwest, with its splendid fighting material is left in a defenceless state, and without a gun, with patriotic offers to organize urgently needed corps ignored. Above all it may be a matter of indifference to some whether other considerations besides military considerations influence the choice and advancement of the military leaders of the people. But as I am now free to speak more openly on matters I have often referred to in public, I desire here emphatically to warn the people of Canada, that though they may be indebted for the integrity of their territory, and indeed, their national existence, to the forbearance of others, they are, as regards their preparation for war and their state of readiness to successfully resist aggression, living in a fool's paradise."

To analyze this paragraph it is practically a statement that to the government of the country it might be a matter of indifference whether the militia lacks guns, rifles, ammunition, equipment, and all that is necessary to make a fighting force efficient, and also a matter of indifference to the same government whether the Northwest is neglected and left defenceless. All this is mere buncombe in the light of the fact that the government is spending on militia double the amount they pledged themselves to do at the time of confederation, and in addition have added largely to the public debt to the extent of millions of dollars to purchase modern guns looking to the defence of important points in this country.

Lord Dundonald states in his document that during the two years he has been in the country he had "sedulously avoided taking any part or interest in Canadian politics." Determining to patronize this country for four or perhaps five years and failing to take any interest or perhaps to find any in the public life of this country, he now has the audacity to lecture men who have spent their whole lives in the service of Canada, one of whom is a member of the Council of Imperial Defence, and to reflect upon the members of a parliament which has generously voted more money than could have been expected of them. It is a rather vain imagination that until his lordship came to this country no military expert had ever been in it, no competent