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Sir Adolphe Caron Sustained

A long threatened attack on the administration of the Department of Militia and Defence was made in the Commons on Thursday last, by Mr. Wm. Mulock, member for North York, Ont. This gentleman is not a militiaman, but he has for a long time taken an active interest in military affairs, and has been a liberal supporter of as well as worker for the Ontario Rifle Association, of which he is the president. Mr. Mulock's attack was in the form of a want of confidence motion, he moving in amendment to the motion that the House go into committee of supply, "That the administration of the Department of Militia and Defence at Ottawa as at present constituted is unsatisfactory to the militia force of Canada and does not command public confidence." While formally making this general condemnation, Mr. Mulock supported it only in so far as the contracts for militia clothing are concerned. He quoted at great length from the evidence taken this session before the public accounts committee, where the subject had been fully investigated, and where it had been proved—what everybody interested knew already—that the first issues of the Canadian made clothing were very inferior in material and finish. But it had also been shown that an improvement has since taken place, the clothing now issued being declared by experts to be quite equal if not superior to that formerly imported from England.

It was upon this point that Sir Adolphe Caron laid most stress in the spirited reply he made—a reply in which the Minister showed to great advantage, by the force and vigour of his address. He freely admitted that the first attempts to manufacture the militia clothing in Canada had not resulted satisfactorily to anyone concerned, but inasmuch as the Department had profited by its experience, and was now able to furnish a superior article, he thought the want of confidence motion was inopportune brought. He admitted that the price paid for the clothing was much in advance of what the English make could be purchased for, but thought this was justifiable in view of the fact that the large amount of money annually required for this purpose is expended in the Dominion, in building up a Canadian industry.

Besides answering the charges preferred by Mr. Mulock, Sir Adolphe dealt at some length with previous attacks made in the press and elsewhere. He referred to the letter which appeared in the *Broad Arrow* some time ago over the signature "A Canadian," and in which he and his Deputy had been condemned on account of their nationality. "That Canadian," said he, "I am informed, is known in literary circles by the poetical name of Linchpin." In this statement of the Minister the MILITIA GAZETTE is particularly interested because of the fact that, so far as we are aware, the gentleman who signs himself "Linchpin" has

used that *nom de plume* only as a correspondent of this paper. In his correspondence he has, as our readers will remember, vigorously pointed out many weak points in our militia system and its administration, but his conclusions were all drawn from passages which he quoted from the annual reports presented to parliament by the Minister; and his attacks, to the best of our recollection, have not at any time been personal. Certainly the Minister or his Deputy were never held up to contumely because of their nationality. The tone of the *Broad Arrow* letter was quite different to that of any communication received by the MILITIA GAZETTE from Linchpin. When it appeared this paper was the first to call Canadian attention to and condemn the letter, which we showed to be false in almost every sentence, and we shall be very much disappointed if its paternity be not distinctly disavowed by the gentleman to whom it has been thus publicly attributed by the Minister.

Upon the vote being taken, after several members had spoken on each side, Mr. Mulock's amendment was negatived by 95 to 54, the vote being a party one with the exception that Mr. Clarke Wallace, the mover's colleague from York County, though a Conservative, stood up for the amendment, and so also did another Conservative, Mr. Cimon; while one Liberal, Mr. Chouinard, was recorded on the Government side. The military men present all stood true to their party allegiance. One, Capt. Sutherland, voted for the amendment, and eight voted against it, these being, Lieut.-Cols. Denison, Kirkpatrick, Prior, Tisdale and Tyrwhitt, Majors Carpenter and Guillet, and Capt. Ward.

Numerous amendments to the "Infantry Drill, 1889," have recently been authorized by an Imperial General Order. A full list of these will appear in our next issue, being crowded out this week.

The Militia Bill introduced in the Commons early in the session was one of the government measures dropped at the close. Sir Adolphe Caron explained that since its introduction he had received many valuable suggestions from officers in various parts of the country, and these suggestions would be considered in the preparation of another measure to be submitted next session. The bill, it will be remembered, aims at amending the regulations governing the calling out of the militia in aid of the civil power.

This paragraph records the latest distinction achieved by one of our Military College graduates abroad. It is taken from the *Army and Navy Gazette* of the 13th April: "The Queen has given orders for the following appointment in recognition of the services of the undermentioned officer during the operations in Sulyman District, viz.: Lieut. H. B. Mackay, R. E., to have the local rank of Captain whilst commanding R. E. on the west coast of Africa." Capt. Mackay graduated from the Royal Military College in 1881.

Taking into consideration that the indemnity paid by France to Germany after the war of 1870-71 amounted to five milliard francs, it follows that if this sum were to be paid at the rate of five francs—about \$1—for every minute since the beginning of the Christian era up to date, that sum would not have been paid yet at the present time.