

of the Deputy Adjutants General throughout the country to inspecting field-officers. He had, moreover, no objection to offer to the sums proposed as salaries in the resolutions before the House. If Canada should have an officer of the rank named, and belonging to HER MAJESTY'S service, \$4,000 a year was not too high a salary, and the sum named for the Adjutant-General of Militia at headquarters, who he believed to be an exceedingly efficient officer, was certainly not excessive. On those points the Bill, indeed, was quite satisfactory. He had the more satisfaction in giving the new Militia Bill his support, because it was framed in accordance with the views he had long entertained in relation to the army that was necessary for the defence of this country. The view he entertained, and which he had previously expressed, was that the expenditure for the Militia and Volunteer service should be reduced from \$1,300,000, which was the proposed vote for this year, to something like half a million dollars. He believed that all that was necessary in the present position of the Dominion on this continent was to keep up a skeleton organization which could be supplemented and increased when the exigencies of the public service demanded that such action be taken. He looked forward to a time of peace reigning on this continent, and we should do nothing either to arouse the warlike spirit in our people, or to excite through the press the jealousy of our neighbors by leading them to think that we were making preparations in anticipation of a collision between them and us. He wished, however, to be distinctly understood that he was not one of those who thought we ought not to be prepared to defend ourselves. He favoured the adoption of such measures as might be necessary, and the utmost economy to be exercised in carrying them out; but the amount placed in the estimates this year was more than the public exigencies demanded. Therefore, while he thought that in order to maintain such skeleton organization as he had suggested, it was essential to have a commanding officer and Adjutant General at headquarters, he desired the Minister of Militia to consider, before the next session of Parliament, how far the expenditure for defensive services might be reduced in accordance with public sentiment. He did not undervalue the great services

which the militia and volunteer forces had rendered to the country. He knew that it was necessary to maintain a military organization not only to provide against foreign aggression, but also for the preservation of our domestic peace, the services of the militia having to a small extent being called for recently. He would, however, be prepared to assist any hon. member in taking measures to bring our military expenditure within a limit which would be satisfactory to the public.

Mr. MCKAY WRIGHT said while he agreed generally with the views of the hon. member for Northumberland and the hon. Minister of Militia, he disagreed with them in one respect. He thought the alterations mentioned in regard to the appointment of a chief officer of our militia force, should be a little less stringent, and we should not be limited in our choice to an officer of the regular army of Great Britain. We were now endeavouring to train up in this country an army of volunteers who would be able to defend our land should the occasion arise, and we were at considerable expense to officer and arm them. He did not believe that native Canadians should be excluded from any office which was in the gift of the Government. There were men now on the militia staff of this Dominion who were eminently qualified to take command of troops in the field, and if we did not throw open all military appointments to our native soldiery they were debarred from the legitimate prizes which they had a right to expect to obtain if the Government proposal was adopted. This appointment should be an exceptional one, because he was not aware that even the office of Governor General of this Dominion could not be well filled by a native Canadian. He submitted for the consideration of the hon. Minister of Militia that, without preventing the office of Major General or commanding officer of the force of the Dominion being filled by an officer of the Imperial army, it should be thrown open to the competition of militia officers who are now building up our force, and expending time and money in acquiring that knowledge and experience which was necessary to render them efficient. He was prepared, however, to go a little further. He believed that the selection of an officer of the Imperial army was not calculated to best serve the interests of the