

there was a peculiar coincidence in the fact that I was acting Minister of Militia. Well, there was a coincidence, but I do not think it was peculiar. My colleague, the Minister of Militia, and myself had been discussing this question; we had been discussing the list of officers which was to be submitted; and notwithstanding the insinuation, notwithstanding the evil opinion of these people, thinking evilly, have in regard to myself, IT WAS THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD THAT WHEN MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF MILITIA, WENT AWAY FOR A DAY, HE SHOULD ASK ME TO SIGN THE RECOMMENDATION, INSTEAD OF GOING TO ONE OF HIS OTHER COLLEAGUES, WHO KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT. The rest of the Government at that time knew nothing about it; the rest of the Government had not been concerned in it. The Minister of Militia and I, as representing the Townships—I who knew the local circumstances and conditions—had been consulting in regard to this matter. I had been giving suggestions with the view of making the regiment a success, and making it effective, and it was natural, the most natural thing in the world, that my colleague should ask me. It was a coincidence if you like, but I cannot acknowledge that it was peculiar.

A NATIONAL MILITIA, FREED FROM PARTY POLITICS, IS THE POLICY OF THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know that I need speak much longer; I have spoken at much greater length than I intended; I have been forced to do this, for I take issue straight and square on this resolution. It is a resolution condemning me, and through me the Government who have endorsed my action. I venture to think, Sir, that no political interference has been proven. On the contrary my action, which has been endorsed by the Government, was with a view of preventing all political interference. I venture to think that the statement that Lord Dundonald, by consequence of this incident has been lost to the militia of Canada, is not true; and I have proven that it is not true out of the mouth of the late General Officer Commanding. If hon. gentlemen opposite wish to take that question up further, they can do so. I am surprised, I must confess, that in this document and in this resolution they seem to have completely changed their minds since the former debate, when Lord Dundonald was in the mouth of every one of them; when Lord Dundonald's record and Lord Dundonald's actions were in the mouth of every one of them; while to-day there is none among them so poor as to do him honour.