

called upon to vote in favour of that resolution. The boldness of the hon. gentleman is almost unspeakable. It is but recently he left the Militia Department, and look at the report of the General commanding, a report which condemns the hon. gentleman notwithstanding all his high-sounding disclaimers. The Major-General says, speaking of the militia stores :

They are filled with an accumulation of worn-out and worthless equipments, obsolete military stores, and condemned utensils, for the care of which an unnecessary number of men are employed. They are subject to no regular system of inspection and there is no personal responsibility established in respect to them. The condition of a large proportion of the equipment in use in the militia is even worse than I have already represented. Not only is a great part of it worn-out with age, but much of that which is issued as new is of the worst possible quality. I have seen saddlery and other equipment, when issued fresh from store, which failed to endure the ordinary usage of a twelve days' camp. I have seen boots that had been issued to soldiers, the leather of which had no more consistency than paper. The condition of the artillery material in possession of field batteries is likewise worse than I had been led to believe. I have now personally inspected nearly all these batteries, and I find that in many cases, the carriages, which are of an old pattern, could not be depended upon to bear the strain of heavy firing.

Could there be a clearer condemnation of the administration of the Militia Department, while the hon. gentleman had charge of it, than this report ?

It being six o'clock, the Committee rose, and the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 19) respecting the Hamilton Provident and Loan Society.—(Mr. McKay.)

Bill (No. 20) to amend the Act to incorporate the Buffalo and Fort Erie Bridge Company.—(Mr. Lowell.)

SUPPLY.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Military Properties, &c. \$91,000

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. When the item you have just read, Mr. Chairman, came before the House, before recess, the hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. Lister), with that delicacy of touch which distinguishes him, made a slight attack against me regarding the administration of the Militia Department when I had the honour of presiding over it. The hon. gentleman, in that style which is so well known and so peculiar to him, made use of very strong expressions, no doubt, to hide the weakness of his case, because strong expressions are generally used by gentlemen who are discussing a bad cause. I told the hon. gentleman, and I repeat, that I stand

here prepared at any time to defend the department over which I preside and my administration of the department over which I presided at one of the critical periods in the history of our country. I stated, and I repeat, that the policy of the Government was, breaking away from that of the party with which the hon. gentleman is allied, to give out contracts in Canada and to keep for Canadians everything that would help Canada. I know that the policy which I advocated, when I became Minister of Militia, does not accord with the views of the hon. gentleman. I wanted to keep in Canada a couple of hundred thousand dollars of money which had been sent to England year after year to provide for the tunics and the uniforms used by our militia. I know well that the hon. gentleman would not approve of that policy, because that was a Canadian policy ; it was a policy to help Canada. The hon. gentleman might have preferred to send this two hundred thousand dollars across the line and to depute Mr. Farrer to go and meet the manufacturers of the United States and take that money away from Canadians. That was not the policy that I followed when I was Minister of Militia. It is not my statement alone that I submit to the House, but I submit also the verdict rendered by the House of Commons itself, after investigation held by a committee of the House. I do not appeal to the hon. gentleman's sense of fair-play, but I appeal to the sense of fair-play of hon. gentlemen on both sides of this House, and I ask whether it is not a fact, that every book I had in my department and every official who could give evidence, was placed freely at the disposal of the committee ? I ask, also, if it is not the fact, that I facilitated by every means in my power the investigation of the charges which had been brought against me ? I did so because I considered then, as I do to-day, that the reputation of public men in Canada is important to Canada and because I desired, as head of the department, to do everything I could to make that investigation complete. Sir, a good many of our colleagues have left these benches since that investigation took place, but it is within the recollection of those who are still here, that that Committee on Public Accounts went into every question, they received expert evidence, they looked into the contracts which had been given and examined samples of the material furnished by contractors. And, as I have said before, Mr. Chairman, in this House, by the largest majority that ever was given on a similar question, the charges levelled against the administration of the Department of Militia were set aside and the administration of that department was declared to have been what it should be. Now, Sir, I have been told that my policy led to giving contracts to political friends and without tender. Like every other head of a department I was in duty bound to take the advice of men, not all political friends of