

SPEECH
OF THE
HONORABLE JOHN ROSE,

On the 2nd reading of the Militia Bill,---6th May, 1862.

Memorandum.—The within Report has been published at the request of a number of friends. As now printed, the observations originally made have been somewhat amplified—particularly in regard to the quotations—the substance of which only was given in debate.

MR. SPEAKER—

THE Bill before the House is one of the greatest interest, inasmuch as it not only commits the Province to a large expenditure, but because it involves a principle of Colonial self-defence, which must have very important bearings on our present position and future relations towards England: I will not at this stage discuss any of its details, but content myself with observing that it proposes to organize and keep up in a state of moderate efficiency a force of 50,000 men, with a reserve of equal amount,—to provide that force with arms, clothing and ammunition, and to erect arsenals and military storehouses at the most suitable places throughout the Province. These services, apart from the first cost of organization, must entail an annual expenditure of nearly a seventh part of our gross revenue, at a time when our financial condition is the reverse of flourishing, and when indeed a heavy deficit has to be met. Some Honorable Members complain that the Government has not apprised them of the views which England entertains on this subject, and ask why no correspondence has been produced,

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