

tinies of this country for the future. There is more danger in being tied up with Downing Street than there is safety in it. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that I should hesitate, as I did hesitate last year, and have the courage of my convictions to vote against the expenditure of money for naval or military purposes. I have upbraided my own party and my own government for the expenditure of the Militia Department, which to my mind is a disgrace to this young country, and I do not hesitate to say that if the seven or eight or nine or ten millions that are spent yearly on gold braid and brass buttons were given to the agricultural colleges and to good roads, it would be a better service to the people of Canada. I remember the time, in 1896, when we were confronted with an expenditure of a million and a half in the department, and now it has gone up by leaps and bounds to seven or eight or nine millions, and that does not cover all the expenditure. That is the amount paid for salaries, for provisions and so on. That does not cover the expenditure for permanent work which can be found in the Departmental Blue-books of the Public Works. Millions and millions are spent on our militia of which we have practically no knowledge. But at any rate there is an expenditure of seven or eight or nine millions at the present time for a force that is absolutely useless to the country. I believe in having a militia that will keep order within our borders, that is all. We should have a service such as is given by the Mounted Police of the Northwest, but to have an idle lot of men who are no good, who will never have a war, unless they are sent down to South Africa, is a mistake. What is the use of spending money on the development of a thing like that when we are crying out for money for agriculture and good roads and other national needs. That condition should be remedied. It cannot be obliterated, nor can it be changed radically, but it is the duty of parliament to put a check on it and to stop the extravagance of that class of expenditure. I am man of the world enough to know that you cannot abolish the whole Militia Department in a day, and we have at the head of that department a man who tried to create a German scare in England and he

had to come home. He is head of the department. Is that the way to run the affairs of our country? I say no. I want the House to understand that when I give expression to these views I do it fearlessly because I do it from conviction, from love for my country, and for my fellowmen. It may not please the taste of many, but when I have served my country according to the dictates of my heart and the love I have for my country my duty is done.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I know that at the present moment I rise under peculiarly unfavourable circumstances to address a few words to the House. I think that the prose that I shall speak in my humble way will offer such a contrast to the picturesque and poetical address that we have just listened to, that members will probably wish that I had not broken in upon the dreams with which they have been inspired. Coming down to our own every day level, I think that the House is to be congratulated upon the speeches made by the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address. The hon. gentleman from St. John (Hon. Mr. Daniel) made a speech in which the partisan element was almost altogether lacking, and which contained a great deal of useful, practical information, and the hon. gentleman from Compton made two or three very good points indeed. I do not need to say anything about the eloquent speech of the hon. leader of the opposition. There is just this one circumstance that occurs to me, that the hon. leader of the House has recently had his forces considerably strengthened in this House, and I had hoped that we should have heard from some of the new members on this important question on the speech from the Throne.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex)—There is time yet.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Yes, but I should have felt more comfortable if I had something to reply to. Several speeches have been delivered on the opposition side to which no reply has been made, and I, as one member of the House, like to have some one to reply to. However, having made these few preliminary observations, I shall say a few words on some points suggested