

burden would be imposed on the country. By using this argument, the honourable gentleman had, therefore, cut the ground from under his own feet. As to the question of fortifications, it was absurd to presume that the minute a difficulty took place the whole of the troops were to run into their forts and leave the country exposed. No such thing would happen. These forts would be mere rallying points, and would be used only as a last resort in case all their troops would be driven in. It had been argued that even if the forts were created say at Toronto and Hamilton, an enemy might land on the shore between these two places, or anywhere along its line of coast out in the immediate neighbourhood of the forts. But did any one with military knowledge imagine that in the event of war, England or the Dominion would be without vessels of observation on the lakes, and did honourable gentlemen imagine it to be so easy under such circumstances for an enemy to reconnoitre and land troops, stores, and ammunition at points along the coast? Again, it had been advanced that although the people of England paid six times as much per head for the support of the army and navy as did the Dominion, that the latter were in proportion to their resources much more heavily taxed? That was a fallacy, and it was important that the people of this country should not imbibe the untenable and unsound notion that they were more heavily taxed than other people. They really were not. The fact was that the burdens borne by Canadians were far less than those sustained by the inhabitants of Massachusetts or New York. As to the proposition of the honourable member for Lambton that a special Committee should be appointed, it was one which was not practical, and would lead to no result beyond quietly shelving the question for a reason. After all, however, his belief was that the true strength of the people lay in the feelings of loyalty and enlightenment which actuated, and he trusted ever would actuate the inhabitants of the Dominion. (Hear, hear). The expenditure asked for by the Government was one which was little enough for the accomplishment of the great end to be attained.

**Hon. Mr. Holton** would not speak at length, believing that the able arguments of the members for Wellington and Lambton remained unanswered. He (Mr. Holton) only rose to disabuse the mind of the Minister of Militia of the impression that he (Mr. Holton) was afraid to back up his vote by his speech.

He was not in the habit of boasting of his achievements; he was not a great militia authority (laughter); but respecting the measure before the House, it was a curious and striking coincidence that it should not have been brought forward until the honourable gentleman had been in receipt of a very distinguished mark of honour from the Imperial authorities. Smarting under a sense of wrong, slightly personal perhaps, the Minister of Militia could not see his way clearly to fulfil what he so strongly urged as an obligation of the country to the empire, until that empire had fulfilled its obligations to him. (Loud laughter and cheers). As to the matter of defence, he regarded the proposed system of fortifications as useless. If the country were attacked, they must do the best they could; but for one, he had not the slightest fear of the result of such a struggle. As to the apportionment of expenses, he did not see how that could be done beforehand. If the Dominion were to be made the theatre of war, then the inhabitants thereof would undoubtedly contribute far more to the expenses of the war than they would be asked to do in any prior arrangements. He strongly objected to being asked to embark as respected the matter of fortifications, in an unknown sea, such as they were asked to do. Again, honourable gentlemen opposite could not pretend there was the slightest possibility of an Imperial Act of Guarantee being passed this session.

**Sir John A. Macdonald** said there was a possibility.

**Hon. Mr. Holton** did not think it. The Government at present in power were in the midst of a crisis, and little could be expected from them. The expected successors were pledged against allowing any such guarantee, very clearly and decidedly. It had been said, if there were no guarantee there would be no burden; but what then became of the necessity for the defences? The objection which the Opposition took *in limine* was to a lump sum. No case whatever had been made out for the proposition in its present stage, unless Government took the ground that the Parliament of the Dominion were not fit to be entrusted with such information on this matter dared not be well held from the representatives of the people in England.

**Hon. Mr. Galt** expressed confidence that the Imperial Government had no intention to depart from engagements entered into. He did not think it possible for the Dominion