

The same argument applies very largely to the amount set aside for the Militia. For many years we have been spending money on the militia, and it is probably necessary that we should have an organization of that kind. But I want to draw attention to the fact that, although we have been spending money on the militia ever since Confederation, when the war broke out the militia organization was not used in raising battalions, but the work that had been done in previous years by the Militia Council and by the officers and men of the militia and the permanent force was practically thrown to one side by the hon. Minister of Militia.

Some Hon. SENATORS: No.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: You are wrong.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: Absolutely wrong.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: The militia regiments were not used because of some bad legislation of a Minister that you followed, the late Sir Fred Borden. There was a misunderstanding because your people did not know anything about it, and we had not time to look it over. The foundation was laid, and it was of great assistance in sending 33,000 men overseas in the first six weeks after the war broke out.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The honourable gentleman may profess to know more about this than I do; but if he will inquire into the matter I think he will find that there was an organization in the Department which would have enabled the necessary battalions to be raised at a minimum of expenditure and trouble. I think that is a question that should have received careful consideration before we went on with an expenditure of a further sum of money on the militia.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: Will my honourable friend permit me? Did the honourable gentleman not take the view of his leader that Germany was our friend at that time, and that we did not require any militia?

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I do not quite understand what my honourable friend is asking.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: Do you want me to ask again? My question is this: did you not at the time follow the opinion of your leader, who took the view that Germany was our friend and we did not require the money?

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The fact remained that we had the militia; that in 1910, I

think it was, the then representative of the Government, the head of the Militia Department, went over to England and took part in deliberations there for the purpose of organizing the whole forces of Canada so that they would be in a position to be utilized when any emergency arose, such as the war with Germany.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: They were utilized.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: And they formed an organization and adopted a plan and a policy that were to have been used if any trouble such as the war with Germany did break out. But I think that, as I said before, that organization was not used in the way that it should have been. We ought to have a thorough discussion and explanation of the whole situation before we go on spending more money on the militia.

I feel very strongly that the Government are to-day spending more money than they are entitled to spend in the carrying on of the affairs of this country. We are brought to a position in which we can no longer borrow money outside of Canada. We are not acting in the interest of the country, we are not benefiting the country, if we borrow more money from the people of Canada for the purpose of carrying on the country's business. The Government should have done more pruning on their Estimates, so that they might be more in keeping with the present condition of the country.

I do not want to take up any more of the time of the Chamber. There may be other gentlemen who desire to say something on this matter; and I do not suppose that any further protest that one could make would have any effect on the Government.

Hon. J. G. TURRIFF: Honourable gentlemen, the amount of the Supply Bill that has now been brought down should show the country that the Government are unduly extravagant and have not exercised the care and economy that ought to be exercised under present conditions. When Canada, with a population of from 8,500,000 to 9,000,000, has a Supply Bill amounting to some \$630,000,000, and when the estimated revenue is only about \$450,000,000 at the outside, then the situation is very serious for this country. Canada is about the only country in the world among those which are supposed to be up to date that is not reducing its liabilities. The United States, a country that I do not think is any richer per capita than we are, is reducing its war debt very materially. I saw it stated that during the month of April it had reduced