

that when a motion to adjourn the House was made, the party making it had no right to reply.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: That was a new rule passed in 1909.

Mr. MACDONALD: I was quite sure that this was a substantive motion, and I felt that it was only right, in the interest of other members who might make motions on other occasions, that the rule of practice might be settled so that we might know what the rights of hon. gentlemen were. I wish, first, to congratulate the minister upon the robust Canadianism which he apparently has developed in regard to this question. Perhaps developed is not the right word, because he has given indications at various times of possessing Canadianism of a robust character, and when I heard my hon. friend tell us as he did today that he had to go to Washington and Berlin in order to get information which he as the Minister of Militia in the greatest of the overseas dominions—

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: No, I was not the Minister of Militia. I said four years ago, and I have been Minister of Militia only a little over two years. Has the hon. gentleman forgotten 1911?

Mr. MACDONALD: My hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carvell) says, 'Worse still.' So he was not Minister of Militia, but a man who had seen service in South Africa, and had succeeded in driving out of Canada two or three British generals who had come here at various periods in his career. I think he ought to have been able to obtain from the War Office, without going to Berlin or Washington, the information which he, as a man interested in the question of what was the best arm for the service, desired to get. Perhaps since he has attained the position which he now occupies the means of communication between the British War Office and himself are a little more natural, a little more proper, than they were on the occasion of which he speaks. I agree with him when he says that this action on the part of the War Office in regard to this matter is an arbitrary action. There are some people who happen to hold positions in the Imperial Parliament—fortunately they are growing less—but everybody who studies British history knows that there have been occasions down into very recent years when men holding positions of responsibility connected with the War Office and the Admiralty looked upon those of us who live in these overseas dominions,

[Mr. Speaker.]

and the representatives of the people in these parliaments, as belonging to some inferior order of beings who had not the wisdom necessary to legislate on behalf of the people whom we represent. Apparently the opinion of the War Office with regard to my hon. friend as representative of the Canadian people in regard to militia matters is that he was not able and is not competent to represent the judgment of the Canadian people in regard to military matters. Hence their action is an arbitrary one. Last year Hon. Winston Churchill, who happened to be connected with another department of defence over there, showed that he regarded these people as being incompetent to form a judgment—

Mr. HUGHES: I said nothing about Winston Churchill.

Mr. MACDONALD: The minister has said a great deal about the War Office, and I am going to say something about Winston Churchill. He belongs to a type of men who regard the Canadian people as incompetent to engage in legislation and regards them, as was clearly shown in his second memorandum which was sent out to Canada, as belonging to an inferior order of beings. Apparently there are some gentlemen belonging to the War Office of the same type of character, and I am glad to say that the minister, with his fiery Canadianism, is making a protest against that kind of parental interference in our affairs by these men who happen to hold a little brief authority on the other side.

The hon. member for North Ontario (Mr. Sharpe) spoke in regard to this question and stated that this aperture sight which was used on the rifles was some terrible concern which was not of any value whatever when it came down to actual results. I made the statement in my opening remarks, and I had it on the very best authority, that in the rifle which has been decided upon by the military authorities of Great Britain the aperture sight forms part of its composition.

Mr. SAM HUGHES: Hear, hear, the new rifle. I read their official report on it.

Mr. MACDONALD: Consequently, if this very War Office, which is acting so arbitrarily upon this question, have in their possession the latest development in regard to arms which maintains as part of its composition this aperture sight, on what possible grounds can they complain and say they will not allow Canadian riflemen