

out the absolute necessity for doing something to improve the condition of the defence force. Then a few months ago there was a report from General Ian Hamilton, who had been brought out from England for the purpose of making that report, and that report shows most conclusively that Canada had not been doing her duty in the way of self-defence, and that she was not in the position to meet attack. It was the duty of the present Government to have attended to that matter. By the occurrence of this war the attention of the Government has been called directly to our practically undefended condition, and it is the duty of the Government at the present session to introduce some measure to put us in a better condition to defend ourselves. I am not speaking as anything but an individual member, but I am perfectly satisfied that any reasonable measure intended to organize the military power of Canada will not be opposed by the Opposition. Perhaps some one may misconstrue what I have been saying; but I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not advocate conscription. Conscription means that a very large proportion of the young men of the country are taken away from their occupations and are kept years in barracks or camps. That is not what I mean. When I talk of a defence force, I mean that the young men, from 17 to 21 at any rate, should have a number of days' training each year. The spirit of that system is directly opposite to the spirit of conscription, and what is called militarism. We had a system of that sort in Nova Scotia, and no one complained about it; it worked remarkably well, and it cost almost nothing. The men were not paid, and did not expect to be. I heard some hon. gentleman make some reference to the peace that was to follow when this war was over. Now, as the American orator said: 'Gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace.' We have the best authority for believing that as long as man is man so long will there be 'wars and rumours of war,' and it is our duty to do something to make ourselves ready when the war comes. We have a great many blessings in this country. There is no country in the world that enjoys greater blessings than Canada, and we should be prepared to make some sacrifices of our own ease and comfort for the purpose of preserving these blessings. And there is just this: now the people realize something of the kind is necessary. Some hon. gentlemen may say: 'Oh, that will

do next session or some other session.' The difficulty is that when next session comes, if the war is over, you cannot work people up to look with favour upon a proposal to increase the strength of the militia.

Then there is another matter to which I wish to refer. Some couple of years ago the Government appointed a commissioner, Sir George Murray, for the purpose of inquiring into the condition of our Civil Service and reporting on it. He made a very able report, and a report which should have been acted upon before now, but no step has been taken towards introducing any of the improvements into the service which Sir George Murray recommended. That is a matter in regard to which something might be done this session. The Government introduced a Bill last session but did not push it. This is not a party question. I do not see any reason why the Government should not do something with their Civil Service Bill this year. Then in addition to that—and perhaps a more urgent matter—is the question of superannuation. More than one commission have reported on that subject. The Government prepared a Bill and introduced it last session, and I do not see any reason why that Bill should not be gone on with. Superannuation is not a party question. There is another matter to which attention has been called more than once, and that is the matter of public printing. I do not care to weary the House by going into that, but I say that I have reason to believe that something like one million dollars a year may be saved by improvements in the practice with reference to public printing. There is no need of duplication of reports, and there is, at present, unlimited printing of reports that are almost utterly unnecessary. There is also the distribution of reports to gentlemen who do not want them. It is a serious matter, but it is not a matter that should be very difficult to deal with, and the Government needs to save all the are almost utterly unnecessary. There is one matter that they ought to deal with, one in which they would have the support of the Opposition. I am sorry if these few observations of mine should be thought to look as though there was some slight difference in the House, but there really is not.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—When we met in August last we felt convinced from the news we had coming through the cables