

occasion to say before, when called upon by their country, did their duty in such a manner as to reflect credit on the Province, credit upon Canada, and credit upon the race from which they spring. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman says that I insulted that battalion. Does he remember that, upon the motion which he made, he forced me to disclose what I should have liked to keep confidential and secret? The hon. gentleman placed in the hands of the Speaker of the House a motion calling upon me, as Minister of Militia and Defence, to produce all letters and telegrams exchanged between the Minister of Militia and the Colonel of the 9th Battalion. And what did he state in those letters and telegrams? Was it right and proper for him to say that the volunteer force was merely required to look after provisions and to take charge of garrison towns? That was an insult. But the insult did not come from me, nor from my Department; it came from a gentleman who, while commanding that battalion, must have found among his own people and the members of his own battalion, brave Canadian hearts who would have felt ashamed to be set down before the Parliament of the country as merely good for the purpose of looking after provisions. And, Sir, I was asked to replace those valiant sons of Canada with cow-boys and half-breeds, who were better than they were to fight the battles of our flag and our country. I say, Sir, I never have been the insulter of his battalion or any portion of the militia force of Canada. As a Canadian, irrespective of the position I occupy to-day, I feel proud of that militia who, on every page of the history of Canada, have left a record that any people might be proud of—a record that shows that Canada can rely upon her own sons to protect her at home and to defend her when she is attacked from outside. The hon. gentleman has made a statement about accounts. Does he believe, that I, as Minister of Militia, carried that spirit of persecution, which he accuses me of, so far, that I have looked into every account of every company and every battalion in the force that was sent to the North-West? These accounts were placed in the hands of the accountants of the Department. The books are there, and if the hon. gentleman will place a motion in your hands, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to lay on the Table of Parliament those accounts, which will show that I never interfered in any way except to do my duty as responsible to the country for the money that passed through my hands as Minister of Militia. I placed the accounts of the hon. gentleman's battalion, as I placed the accounts of every other battalion, in the hands of the officers who had charge of that particular branch of the Department; and those gentlemen cannot possibly have felt that great hatred, which he says I felt, for the hon. gentleman from the moment the Riel troubles began. It is of no use to-day to go back to that page of our history. If we did, I would be prepared to show that the hon. gentleman, even upon that question, changed his views more than once, and that he was prepared at first not to view this great crime which he accuses us of, in the same severe and critical light in which he viewed it afterwards. But we need not go back to the question of Riel. My duty here, before Parliament and the country, is merely to show that I have had no feeling whatever except a feeling which I was bound to possess, as an honest man, to see that the Department was protected; and I can tell the hon. gentleman, and he knows it, that every account which came before me was submitted to him months and months before the period when the drill took place, and I am prepared to bring down the papers which will show that it was in no hostile spirit that those accounts were forwarded to the hon. gentleman, to that protector of the honor of the battalion, to that friend of his nationality, to that great patriot who sacrificed his future, who has been the object of persecution and prosecution ever since; through patriotic motives he changed his

views, the views which he entertained before, on the Riel question. Now, the hon. gentleman, again the friend of his battalion, says that the only officers in the battalion about whom possibly he may have some doubts, are those whom I had got under my control for the purposes of patronage, and giving them positions in the Civil Service, or elsewhere. Well, I should like to know whether he, the commandant of that battalion, shows himself very friendly to those who fought side by side with him, who went to the North-West with him, did their share there well, remarkably well, as I have said on more than one occasion. Is it very proper for him to brand these men here, men belonging to the militia force of Canada, as men who can be controlled by the hope of getting some patronage or some position in the Civil Service? In any case, Sir, you, as a military man, know that these officers must have been selected by the hon. gentleman. He had the selection of his officers, and he should have been more prudent in forming that battalion than to select men who could be turned away from their duty by the hope of getting patronage, or who could be controlled by the political head of the Department. The hon. gentleman referred to Surgeon DeBlois who went to the North-West, and, *sotto voce*, the hon. gentleman said he was a connection of mine. Mr. Speaker, when the battalion was ordered to the North-West, the surgeon who should have accompanied it was in such a poor state of health that he requested to be replaced by another, and, upon the recommendation of almost every officer in the battalion, and, I believe, of its colonel, the hon. gentleman himself, Surgeon DeBlois was selected and sent to the North-West to attend the wounded and sick of the battalion during the campaign. I must say that in that critical period, when more important matters were coming, every hour almost, under the notice of the Militia Department, I, upon these recommendations, did not hesitate to grant the request, which was made by one, who, although my connection, wanted to go, like the gallant colonel himself, to fight the battles of his country, and I consented to allow Dr. Roy to be replaced by Surgeon DeBlois. The hon. gentleman says he is here to defend his battalion which is attacked. His battalion has never been attacked. Let him take up the *Hansard* during the last Session, and the Session before, and show me where, at any moment, the 9th Battalion was unfavorably spoken of; let him say whether it was not always spoken of by myself and by those who took an interest in what was going on, in the highest terms possible—terms laudatory to the men and laudatory to the officers. There is a question, and more than one question, which it is very inconvenient indeed to discuss, without having the papers here; but the hon. gentleman speaks of rations that were refused to him, or which, instead of being given to him in kind, were refused to be given to him in money. We have the military regulations, and every soldier is bound to be guided by them, and I can tell the hon. gentleman, what he knows, that in my own office, when he told me Colonel Lamontagne, who was acting Adjutant General in Winnipeg, had allowed him to draw his rations in money instead of in kind, Colonel Lamontagne, whom I called into my office when the hon. gentleman himself was present, said he had never given such permission, and had never violated the regulations by allowing the hon. gentleman to do what, under the regulations, he had no right to do. I am perfectly prepared to bring down every paper connected with the manner in which the whole of this disagreeable matter was dealt with. The accounts were placed in the hands of the accountants of the Department, and they were sent to the military head of the Department by the Major General Commanding, and the hon. gentleman should know, if he does not, that all such orders connected with the active force must be sent through the general officer commanding the militia. I did not expect the hon. gentleman would call upon me to discuss, without