

The bill, therefore, was insufficient as regarded what it would achieve; or it was too dear for what we would get. He was glad, however, to infer from what had fallen from the Minister of Militia, that he had succeeded in satisfying the English Government, and also the Commander of our Militia, Col. Macdougall, who, it was rumoured, had prepared a bill very different from this in its character. He could not enter to-night into any discussion of details, until he had the bill before him, to contrast it with the present law; but he would say that so far as the gentlemen on the side of the House with whom he generally acted were concerned, the Minister of Militia would receive from them no factious opposition in this matter more than in any other matter; but that they would be prepared to support the Government in any Military expenditure which might be considered necessary, when the defence of the country and the honour of the empire were concerned. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Mackenzie then referred to the different treatment given by gentlemen opposite to the Government of the member for Cornwall at the time when they laid down their policy on the question of defence, in the Despatch which had been alluded to, and which he characterized as the best written state paper which he had ever seen emanating from this country. He then referred to a remark of Mr. Cartier's as to the number of the seafaring population of Great Britain, and gave the correct figures, showing that Britain and her colonies, in the commerce and marine, had afloat on the sea a total of 432,000 men, and said that those figures were consoling when they read the taunt occasionally spoken of in the United States about the decadence of the British power. (Cheers). He closed by stating that he would embrace the opportunity afforded by the second reading of the Bill, to give at greater length his views on the measure and the question of defence generally.

Hon. Mr. DORION contrasted the features of this Bill with the existing law introduced by the Government of which he was a member, and stated that this measure put restrictions to volunteering by confining the number of volunteers in any regimental division to the quota that division was required to furnish. In districts where the quota was not furnished by volunteering, resort would be had to the ballot. By this Bill therefore the compulsory system was substituted for the volunteer system. He saw no good reason for such a change, on the contrary, he thought every encouragement should be given to volunteering.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER made some remarks in reply to observations by previous speakers. He said although he and his friends had found fault with the short-comings of the member