

department of the public service at Ottawa, bar none. He goes to his office early, and stays late. He is accommodating and obliging. He is one of those quiet, unobtrusive gentlemen who do their work without noise or bombast. He is one of those gentlemen who do their work without going from seaboard to seaboard for the purpose of making known their merits.

He is a quiet, unobtrusive gentleman who goes about the country doing the work which has been entrusted to him without advertising it from the housetops. When the history of this country is written with respect to the mobilization and training of the first contingent, the name of General Gwatkin will be the one which will receive a greater measure of appreciation than that of anyone else. I think it ill-becomes the hon. member for Pictou, who at least arrogates to himself the possession of some knowledge on military matters, to refer to General Gwatkin as he has done.

Mr. BRADBURY: He is a colonel.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: He may be a colonel but I would judge he was a private from the observations he has made this afternoon in regard to General Gwatkin. I know what General Gwatkin has done in respect to mobilization and training in the province in which I live. He is not responsible for the system that moved others to cry from the housetops, or for making men colonels, they being civilians, as they walked along the street, but he went quietly and calmly about his duty. He laid down certain rules for the training of our forces, and I would say to the hon. member for Pictou that, as a colonel and a member of the militia, he knows that General Mackenzie's position in this country was general officer commanding the Canadian forces, and that General Gwatkin was not appointed to that position although he was recommended for it.

Sir SAM HUGHES: General Mackenzie was not general officer commanding in this country. He was chief of staff, the same as General Gwatkin.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: He occupied the position formerly held by the general officer commanding, but owing to circumstances connected with the dismissal of Lord Dundonald that position was not filled. The hon. member for Pictou knows that the Government which he supported laid down the principle that the Minister of Militia, a civil officer, was the head of the forces in Canada, and that the military officer who was sent here, loaned to Canada,

at request, by the British authorities, occupied a position subordinate to the minister. Therefore, because General Dundonald saw fit to arrogate to himself, as my hon. friends said, certain authority which, they said, he did not possess, he was removed from his position and a Minute was passed that in Canada the minister was head of the military organization and that whoever was chief of the general staff, or general officer commanding, occupied a subsidiary position to the minister. General Gwatkin was chief of the general staff and responsible for the mobilization and training of the troops. It is too bad that at a time of stress like this the people should be told that there should be a general in command of the forces in Canada when those responsible for this story know as well as I do that this gentleman to whom I have referred is the party who is responsible for training our forces and sending them to England to receive their final training at the hands of the British authorities, operating as part of the Imperial forces, and that their fitness is passed upon by General Turner now and ultimately by Lord French who is the Inspector General of the forces in England. Provided their fitness is satisfactorily determined, they are sent to France or to Flanders. My hon. friend knows that. He knows that no general in Canada has aught to do except to see that the forces are mobilized and trained until they are enabled to cross the seas as prospective first-class troops. Then they are passed upon by an officer who is eminently able to determine whether or not the troops are fitted for trench warfare on their arrival in France. An attempt is being made to create the belief that because there is no general in charge of the troops and that there is only a man who sits in his office and directs mobilization and training, not going out and inspecting himself, that the work is not being properly done. This gentleman does not himself go out and inspect because there are inspectors appointed for that purpose. General Hughes is the inspector of the forces west of the Great Lakes and for the troops east of the Great Lakes there are other inspectors. These inspectors go all over the country and determine whether the troops which are in training are fit to go overseas to undergo their supplementary training in England and become part of the Imperial forces. It is because there has been in this country, since this war began and up to the time Sir Edward Kemp succeeded as Minister of Militia, a man who arrogated