

This has special reference to the twelve-pounder ammunition, which is cordite, which any one familiar with its qualities knows is exceedingly dangerous. I think I have shown pretty conclusively that the department is not blamable for the fact that there was no ammunition there, and further that there is plenty of ammunition within easy reach of all the battalions in the province of Ontario, and throughout the Dominion, and that, so far as the artillery is concerned, there is also ample ammunition within easy reach.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I understand that the hon. gentleman who brought this question up, bases his statement on an article which he read in the *Evening Star*.

Mr. McCLEARY. I beg pardon. I had not seen that article till yesterday.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman, however, to-day quoted this article in support of his statement, and seemed to place a good deal of confidence in this newspaper. I regret that the hon. gentleman has that confidence in this newspaper, because in the article in question, there are expressions which I hope the hon. gentleman will disapprove of, and denounce in his own county as being of a most malignant character, and calculated to stir up racial feelings in this country. I will just point out to the House the kind of statements which this newspaper, which the hon. gentleman quotes, and apparently endorses, puts before the public. This article is headed 'A Case in Point,' and in the first paragraph it says:

The 'Star' earnestly hopes that, in calling attention to Saturday night's attempt to disable the Welland Canal, and subsequent events, it will not be charged with an attempt to 'stir up racial feeling' by pointing out one or two important things.

That is the heading, and that is the intention; but I will point out the way in which this newspaper tries to avoid stirring up racial feeling. After the portion of the article which the hon. gentleman quoted, and which I will not repeat, it goes on:

No doubt, the display would frighten the intruders, but it would be perfectly harmless otherwise, as there is no ammunition for rifles or guns in Ontario. The Frenchmen at Quebec have it all in their keeping.

This is the way in which the Ontario journal, which, I believe, supports the hon. gentleman and the party with which he is connected, tries to avoid stirring up racial feeling amongst its readers. I would like to know how the hon. gentleman or his friends or the editor of this paper justifies a statement of this kind, which has no connection whatever with the affair in question, and which can have no possible *raison d'être*, except for the express purpose of stirring up racial feeling at a time when all the

members of the militia of this country, to whatever race they belong, or whatever language they speak, or whatever religion they profess, have been ready to show their patriotism and loyalty to Canada, and to the empire. This paper tries to separate the militia of this country into two opposite camps—the one, the French of Quebec, and the other, the English-speaking people of Ontario. I regret that an hon. member of this House should quote an article of this kind, reading portions of it which happen to suit his purpose, and leaving out these dangerous and malignant parts, which I think he ought to have taken the opportunity of exposing and denouncing.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Mr. Speaker, I really cannot find out how the hon. gentleman, who brought up this important question has attempted to stir up any racial cries. The hon. gentleman put a question to the Minister of Militia. He wanted to ascertain, as it was his right and his duty to do, whether the militia force of the district in which the outrage took place, had the necessary ammunition. My hon. friend, the Minister of Militia, has properly laid down the regulations respecting the ammunition, but he has not gone far enough. It is the duty of the department to ascertain whether this ammunition has been applied for, and is to be found where it should be. Would it be an answer, in case of an attack, for the hon. Minister of Militia to say, we could not defend ourselves, forsooth, because we fancied there was ammunition there, and we found that the commanding officer had forgotten to claim the ammunition to which he was entitled, and hence we were defeated? The Minister of Agriculture has tried to make a point against my hon. friend for quoting a newspaper, merely to show that the ammunition had not been provided as it should have been. The hon. minister says that paper has raised the cry that all the ammunition is in Quebec. Well, Sir, we Frenchmen are really not very selfish, and are not disposed to keep all the ammunition down in the province of Quebec. We are ready to divide it between Ontario, Quebec and the other provinces, and to use it with the other provinces, in defending ourselves against attack from any foe. We want nothing more, and I do not believe the people of Quebec will be at all annoyed at the paragraph which appears in that paper, suggesting that all the ammunition is to be found in the province of Quebec. But I would suggest that the hon. Minister of Militia should draw upon that ammunition and send some of it to the Welland Canal, in case of another attack being directed against those very important public works. It is no answer to say that all the ammunition and gunpowder is to be found in one place. It is the duty of the Department of Militia, to distribute it in such a way that it will be

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