

During the time that I was acting in that capacity, commanding the district, I had to attend to an immense number of these papers, as well as other matters. There were those relating to the provisions, which will be alluded to later on, the teamsters, and, in fact, the whole work of organising there. I signed for many hundred thousands of dollars of accounts, and how that has been extracted from them I do not know. I know nothing of that item that is charged against me; we were not put *en demeure*. Then I find that there would be certain balances due by some of my own officers, and I find that I am indebted to the Department in the sum of \$40.95. Well, the Department paid much more than that to find out that amount, and the amount paid here. If I had a commission of *enquête*, before which I would have the ordinary power of introducing witnesses, I would be able to prove that the Department owes me over \$50, instead of my owing the Department. Then there are some small items; here is one of \$14.40, and another to the same amount against some of my officers. Here is another sum of \$126.35, but it is not due by an officer of the 9th, but by an officer who belongs to the regular army, whom the Minister of Militia has himself sent to England, and for whom I am not responsible. There is another item of \$115.25, not due by an officer of the 9th, but by an officer imposed on the 9th by the Minister of Militia. He is not related to me; the hon. gentleman knows to whom he is related.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Name.

Mr. AMYOT. Surgeon DeBlois—*cousin germain*. Now, I told you that there was an amount put against us; but there are certain amounts due to my officers to the extent of \$103.70. Do you think the hon. gentleman has time to look into that, and pay my officers the amounts which are due to them? No, he cannot attend to that at all—it would be taking too much time and trouble. I referred to the rations, and I will give you an explanation of that. I think it is due to my battalion that I should protect them here, for it is because I am here that my battalion is attacked. If I had not been a member of this House, or if I had sacrificed my opinions and convictions, and voted to support the hon. Minister of Militia, I would not have this trouble, nor would my battalion be treated as it has been. It is because I am here that the battalion is insulted, and I am bound to defend it. When we arrived at Winnipeg my officers went to the Department and asked if we were entitled to have rations in money rather than in kind; and it was answered by one officer, as I can prove by three witnesses, that we were entitled to receive rations in money. The orders and regulations of the Militia are very clear on that point, or they were up to that time, but since our return the Government has thought fit to amend them. My officers were paid the first time in money, and not in kind, and then we established a mess, as we were bound to do, by the orders and regulations of the Militia. We have been going on in that way, adapting our expenses to the scale established in the orders and regulations, showing the amounts we were entitled to. All the time of the expedition we could not be paid except once in the beginning, when we were paid on that basis of money instead of in kind. But since the Department has refused to pay us in any way for the feeding; they said, You have received in kind. Well, we established the contrary, by means of the vouchers and requisitions. Then the Department gave in, but instead of giving us one dollar, according to the orders and regulations, they gave us only 40 cents, and that is how they became our creditors. More than that, when we arrived in Quebec, we received the following letter:—

"Sir,—I beg to inform you that, according to instructions received from the Department of the Minister of Militia, the 9th Battalion are
Mr. AMYOT.

entitled to draw field allowance and rations to the 21st July. From that to the end of July net pay only * * *

"FRED. K. LAMPSON,
"Major and Paymaster."

We were paid according to that official letter. Well, the commission of *enquête* takes back that amount which has been paid to us and says it is irregular. The Minister wants a revenge, and proceeds *ex parte* against us; that is the way in which we are treated. I complain, Sir,—that the Minister of Militia, instead of being the friend and supporter of the 9th, has become its persecutor, and I am afraid that the sentiment which animates him is a feeling of revenge against its commander. The Minister of Militia should remember the circumstances connected with that expedition to the North-West, so far as I was concerned. When I was in the North-West I did my best for him; I sent in any number of letters of praise and telegrams to be read before this House, and he replied in the most friendly way. Long after the expedition was over, we exchanged letters of congratulation and friendship. I have letters from him, which I may have occasion to read before this House later on, in which he told me: "Don't be afraid when you write me privately, it will never be made public." But when the execution of Riel came, when I was faithful to my word, and acted in the way my conscience dictated, then he became my enemy and began his persecutions; and I state, as a matter of fact, that nearly every time I have had a letter from the Department, the ministerial press have been informed of its contents before me. Every possible information from the Department against me has been given to the press, and the most odious persecution has been organised against me. I complain of it, but I know it will go on, and I know that with his organisation he will some time or other find some way of chasing me from my battalion. But I do not care, because the people are with me, and I defy the hon. gentleman to find one single officer or soldier who will say one word in reference to me except of praise and gratitude. He will find, perhaps, three or four in the ranks of my officers, who are under his control for public situations or for increases of salary; but all the rest are with me—why? Because all the time the expedition lasted we did our duty. We were not old soldiers, but we did our best; we committed no wrong; we obeyed every order possible, and when we came back everybody was satisfied, and everybody is still satisfied. I am not afraid to leave that part of the case with my fellow-citizens and this honorable House. There is another part that will be disposed of further on, that is, the part of the telegrams. I will make that matter clear in such a way as to enable this honorable House to judge whether the hon. Minister of Militia is my persecutor instead of my defender.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The hon. and gallant commander of the 9th Battalion, for the second time, comes before this House, and complains of the manner in which the great services which he has rendered to his country have been acknowledged by Parliament and by the Minister of Militia. On a former occasion the hon. gentleman appealed to this House, and called upon me, as the responsible head of the Department of Militia, to lay before Parliament and before the country the letters and telegrams which had been exchanged between the Minister of Militia and the commandant of the 9th Battalion. On that occasion it was my duty to obey the command of Parliament, and, upon the motion of the hon. gentleman, I laid on the Table of Parliament, letters and telegrams which he felt ashamed of after they were published. But the hon. gentleman stands up here, knowing his responsibility as a member of Parliament, and accuses me of being the persecutor of his battalion, and of insulting a battalion, the members of which belong to the same race to which I belong; and I can say that the members of that battalion, as I have had