

report which has never seen the light of day. It was printed by the Defence Committee under the imperial government. It is something secret. Lord Dundonald's report was of a similar character, and one that at any rate for the time being should be treated as confidential.

Mr. INGRAM. Lord Dundonald said it was a broad scheme for the improvement of the militia. If it is this as well as the other, why not publish the part of it that can be published?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have said that that would be done, and I have given part of it to-day.

Mr. INGRAM. The hon. gentleman used it in his own speech. But that is not very satisfactory to hon. gentlemen on this side who have had no opportunity to read this report. How can we discuss it when we have had no opportunity to read it?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No one on this side has had it.

Mr. INGRAM. Except the hon. minister himself.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Who ever heard of a minister not having the advantage, and, if he saw fit, the exclusive advantage at the outset, of the advice of his principal technical officer? Who ever heard of the government not having that advantage? And who ever heard of such an officer's report being published to the world before the government had had an opportunity of deciding whether they would adopt the suggestion set forth in it or not?

Mr. INGRAM. I was pointing out the effect of this course. The Major General, who is the chief officer of the Militia Department, makes a certain report to the department. That report is treated as a strictly private matter. The minister may differ very materially from the Major General with respect to the contents of that report. But I think parliament should be in a position to say which, in our judgment, is right.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ingram) thinks it is in accordance with the principles and practice of responsible government that an official of the Militia Department should have the right to put forward his views to the people before the minister has made up his mind whether he will adopt those views or not?

Mr. INGRAM. I will go so far as to say that there is no use having an expert military man come to this country for the purpose of suggesting what would be in the interests of the militia if his recommendations are not carried out.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I take the responsibility.

Mr. THOMPSON (Haldimand). I would like to ask the hon. member for South Norfolk (Hon. Mr. Tisdale) a question if he will allow me. I did not quite understand his remarks regarding politics entering the militia. Did I understand him to say that this was one cause why the force was not in as good a condition as it might be?

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. No, I said I thought it worth the minister's while to be careful, to make inquiries lest such a thing might exist; and that if it did exist it might explain some matters that we could not explain otherwise. Now, I would say just one word in reply to the minister. According to my idea the hon. gentleman was not quite correct in his reference to the Major General. The Major General is not an officer of the department; he is commander of the militia. The minister is responsible for his actions, and above him, but—

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think he is an officer of the Canadian government.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. He is. But the hon. minister said he was an officer of the department—

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Well, he is. He is certainly not controller of the department, not the 'boss' of the department—not now, at any rate.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. The hon. minister told us to-day of his arrangement about the stores department. I said I commended the hon. gentleman for his arrangement for the ordnance stores department. But if the position of the Major General in regard to it is to be circumscribed, friction will arise, and the arrangement will be of little good. I laid it down before and I do it now that the general is under the minister. The minister is under our system responsible. His position is political.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. That is right.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. And the minister cannot divest himself of that responsibility.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. That is right.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. When we use the word 'political,' we use it in the sense in which the hon. member for Haldimand and Mouck uses it. But this matter is different. I cannot be satisfied without an assurance from the hon. minister that the Major General would ever have put in his general report what he did about the special report unless he were perfectly willing that the hon. minister should show it anywhere, because, judging from what I have heard of him from all quarters, he is the last man who would do anything else. I believe the Major General put that in there not to decide whether it was to be used or not, but to let it be known that he did so. There was