

He is the dictator, but I warn them to look out; he may become the tyrant. Dictators often become tyrants. I know one gentleman who will be happy, the Minister of Agriculture, who I hope is present. Surely on the general staff or the headquarter's staff or the district staff or some other staff, the hon. Minister of Militia will find an opportunity to appoint him to some position. Surely his warlike attitude on the Dundonald debate deserves consideration. Staff position means cocked hat and feathers. By all means let it be a large hat, to suit the head, many feathers, small saddle, big spurs and a great sword.

The correspondents of the press gallery have been commenting on the hon. Minister of Agriculture rather familiarly lately I fear. When he dons this 'war paint' they better beware of such 'quibs,' as the following which appeared during the Dundonald debate. I have more but this must suffice.

It was worth a trip to Ottawa to hear little Syd. say: 'it is ME.' The bad grammar aside, the House roared at the cocky little man.

He has exhibited lately a principle which I admire; he has shown gratitude for the free hand he was allowed with the 13th Light Scottish Dragoons. I have heard that he appreciates the present position of the Minister of Militia sufficiently to be aware of the probability of that minister's great difficulty in getting a self-respecting chief of staff or general officer commanding under these present powers. It is reported he has published a want ad. in the papers. I am certain it is in the papers, but I am not prepared to state that he is responsible for its publication. However, it is very applicable and I shall read it.

Wanted.—A tame G.O.C. Warranted safe for children and fools to play with. Trained to recognize his 'superiors' by the constitutional label, and to be subject to the regulations. Will not let Tories pet him. Apply to the Minister of Militia at Ottawa—or, better still, to the Department of Agriculture. No telephone messages answered.

This really sets forth the situation and I hope that he will secure such an officer.

In conclusion I wish for a moment to refer to the extraordinary position of the minister in not communicating with the British War Office or the home authorities in reference to the late changes in this Bill. It will be within the memory of hon. gentlemen that two or three years ago at the colonial conference in London the imperial authorities evinced a keen interest in the formation of a scheme of defence which would include the colonies. It will be remembered that while the government did not agree to contribute anything directly they took it upon themselves to establish a strong militia defence scheme in Canada. When my hon.

friend brought in his Bill the changes proposed in it were of a minor character compared with the Bill as it now stands. This year at the commencement of the session he introduced practically the same Bill, but he held it up in committee for some time, and now he has brought it back again with the very drastic changes I have mentioned. By the new Bill he departs entirely from any system of defence which we have had in Canada since confederation. It involves a whole change of system, and not only an absolute change of system but an absolute separation in every detail of our system from the imperial army or any imperial defence system. I say that I am startled and astonished that he saw fit not to communicate with the imperial authorities before making these changes. What does it mean, and is he fair to us? It is a very serious thing.

If as the member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) wishes, we are merely to have a militia force in this country to aid the civil power in police matters, then I agree with him that we are spending too much money on our militia. But, if on the other hand, we want to have a national force, then we should pay great heed to the magnificent scheme of defence of the late General Officer Commanding under which we would have 45,000 trained men with a possibility of increasing the establishment to 100,000, and with trained officers, and non-commissioned officers who could supply a second line of defence of another 100,000, making in all 200,000. Not only the Canadian militia, but the British army and navy are to be considered in our defence scheme, and it is unfair and unjust to the British army and dangerous to ourselves that our Canadian military force should not be in a position to render them effective assistance. I believe in the responsibility of government, but at the same time I believe in common sense. We have the army and navy of Great Britain at our back, and I say it is not treating the imperial authorities fairly, in view of what they have done for us, that this government, in proposing to change the whole system of our defence, has not thought it worth while to communicate with them. That is a mistake and it is against the best interests of Canada. I have shown beyond all question that the new scheme proposed by the Minister of Militia has no resemblance to the British army scheme, in form or in substance. Under this new scheme of his, the Minister of Militia will be absolute dictator not only in his department, but in the militia of Canada; he can do everything with the solitary exception of ordering out the militia for active service. It is beyond all question that no better scheme could be devised to invite political interference in the militia. We have the whole Department of Militia with one man dominating even the mi-