

was an excellent officer. I found him extremely industrious, a most hardworking man who was in his office day and night. I further found him possessed, so far as I was capable of judging, of admirable knowledge with regard to all military matters, and I thought he was one of the most valuable officers in the employ of the Militia Department of this country.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Granted all that, is it true that the British War Office refused to recommend him?

Mr. HAZEN: I do not know whether that is true or not; I have heard that statement to-day for the first time. He was, as my hon. friends know, in the Militia Department when we came into power, and he was subsequently promoted. He has done admirable work; he has rendered good service to this country; he has discharged his duties with ability. He possesses the requisite knowledge, so far as the military end is concerned, and he has discharged those duties in a way which is satisfactory. He has given very valuable services to this country for any remuneration he has received.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I think so, too.

Mr. HAZEN: I cannot understand the statement made that he was not recommended by the British Government because, at one period when I was acting as Minister of Militia, a despatch was received asking that General Gwatkin and the gentleman who was then Commandant of the Royal Military College at Kingston should both be returned, as their services were required on the other side by the British Government.

I took the opportunity at that time of notifying the British authorities that I thought it would be impossible for us to get along satisfactorily in the Militia Department without General Gwatkin's services, unless they were prepared to give us some one equally competent who would take his place, and who could discharge the duties of the position he was filling. The fact that the British War Office asked that he should be returned for the purpose of doing service on the other side in connection with the war, and that it was owing to our protest he was not returned, is, I think, strong evidence that he was held in high regard by the War Office and the British Government.

Sir SAM HUGHES: May I ask my hon. friend at what period that was? Was it while I was minister, and where was I?

Mr. HAZEN: I was acting as Minister of Militia. I think it was during the time my hon. friend was on the other side. What I have said was my opinion at the time, and was an opinion formed after consulting men who knew far more about military matters than I do. I understand General Gwatkin was held in very high regard as a soldier by one of the best soldiers who ever was in Canada, I refer to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who was Governor General of this country for five years, and who fulfilled his functions so satisfactorily.

Reference was made to the large number employed on the other side in connection with military matters, as compared with the smaller number employed in the past. I hope before Parliament prorogues we shall have the exact figures, and know how many Canadians have been employed in connection with the military offices in London and on the other side generally. When I was in London on a recent trip to the Imperial Conference, I availed myself of every opportunity of visiting the different offices in which matters connected with the militia of Canada were being administered. There are a large number of officers and others employed, for instance, at the pay offices at Millbank, which is in charge of Colonel Ross. I went through the offices with Colonel Ross, and spoke to him about the number employed. I said, "There seem to be a great many people here, and they all appear to be very busy." His reply was, "Oh, yes, and there is not a man too many; we have to keep accounts of over 300,000 men; our correspondence is simply enormous. In the British War Office they do not pretend to answer the letters we answer here. Their letters are simply filed away.

Here we make it a point to answer any letter written us in the interests of any Canadian, or with regard to any Canadian, or on any subject in which any Canadian is interested in this department. We could not get along with one man less." I think there were about 500 employed in the department. Colonel Ross added "As a matter of fact, we have great difficulty in keeping our work up to the mark, and if letters are unanswered for a day or two we are sure to have complaints." One of the difficulties was that the men were soldiers—men who had been discharged from the hospitals and who were able to do this work, but were not fit to go back to the front. By degrees these men got better, and gradually worked into what is called