

drawn. It would be noticed that in the o'her end of the building the Government had agreed to the appointment of a Committee to enquire into this subject.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the hon. member for South Waterloo had proposed to refer the subject to a Committee of the Whole, while in the other House the motion was for a special Committee which was quite a different thing.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER said the object of the member for South Waterloo was to obtain the assistance of members of the House in considering the very important question of statistics. The hon. gentleman was met by the statement from the First Minister that in the present position of the question he (the Premier) did not consider the House could assist them, that the Government had the subject under consideration, and that it would be better to leave it in their hands. The House agreed to that view, and the motion was withdrawn. He was therefore somewhat surprised to learn that a motion having been made in the other end of the building to refer the same subject to a Committee, the gentleman who represented the Government there had stated that the Government desired the assistance of a Committee on the subject.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said he had not the slightest objection to the hon. member for South Waterloo receiving a Special Committee on the subject, but that hon. gentleman had proposed to refer it to the Committee of the Whole, and he (Mr. MACKENZIE) had stated that he could see no object to be gained in taking that course, inasmuch as no result could be accomplished by it further than obtaining a discussion. If his hon. friend desired a Special Committee the Government would be very glad to have its assistance.

Mr. YOUNG said he had withdrawn his motion on the understanding that the Government had the matter under consideration, and he supposed that they intended at a future time to propose some scheme to place our statistics upon a better footing than they were at present. He knew that ultimately the matter would have to be dealt with by the Government, and therefore he was perfectly satisfied to leave it in their hands.

*Hon. Mr. Tupper.*

MILITIA AMENDMENT ACT.

Hon. Mr. VAIL moved the second reading of the Bill to amend the Act respecting Militia and Defence.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL asked if this Bill would increase the militia expenditures.

Hon. Mr. VAIL said said the increase would be very trifling. The chief amendment proposed was to place the militia of the country under a Major General instead of a Deputy Adjutant General, with, he thought, about the same salary.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL objected to the enormous expenditure incurred for militia purposes, and when concurrence in the militia estimates came before the House, would take the opportunity of giving expression to his views on that subject.

Hon. Mr. VAIL said the expenditure now was only about a million, whereas under the late Government, of which the hon. gentleman was a member, it was a million and a-half.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—Last session I declared my opinion that half a million was as much as should be expended.

Hon. Mr. VAIL—The hon. gentleman took care not to express that opinion until his Government went out of power.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said he had always held the opinion he now expressed. (Laughter.) Hon. gentlemen opposite might laugh, but they had not the courage to adhere to the opinions they had expressed when in opposition, that the militia expenditure should be decreased. He held that half a million was quite enough, and in that he believed he would be sustained by the hon. member for South Ontario.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said his hon. friend, the leader of the Left Centre, was of opinion that all money that was spent on defence was mis-spent, unless it was spent on the navy. The hon. gentleman had been looking around for a follower, and he had found either a follower or a leader in the hon. member for South Ontario. In reference to the general question of defence, it must never be forgotten that in 1865 a deputation went to England, and the whole subject of the relative contributions for the defence of the empire was discussed, and it was arranged