

Mr. MACDONALD. The hon. member for North Essex says there has been.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I understand the minister admits that the purchase was made through an agent, and this agent, no doubt, has got a pretty handsome commission out of it.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The hon. gentleman should be a judge of commissions.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I understand there is no question about it. I know something about automobiles, and I know that they allow the agents very handsome commissions. My hon. friend makes the excuse that the company would not sell except through an agent. That may be the case with the Ford Company. The Ford Company is one of the most reputable companies in Canada, and I am not going to say whether the minister got these automobiles as cheaply as he could have got them, but, while I am upon my feet, I have one word to say in praise of the minister. I think he deserves great credit for refusing to be bulldozed by the hon. member for North Essex (Mr. Wilcox). That gentleman spoke as if he ran the constituency. He says, indeed, that the Minister of Militia is the only minister that does not consult him and defer to his wishes in this constituency. We had here not long ago the spectacle of the Minister of Customs being obliged to listen to the remarks of the hon. member for North Essex in the House when he said that he had succeeded in having officials dismissed, and that he was not going to remain still until he had other men dismissed who had taken any part whatever in the election or had expressed political views. That is a wrong position for the hon. member for North Essex to take.

Mr. WILCOX. I did not take any such position. I realize my position in this House, and in my constituency, and as a young member I have tried to conduct myself in the manner in which I believe every hon. member should conduct himself, and for which I think I should be given credit. I have tried to act as a young member of this House in such a way as to commend my course to the favourable judgment of the older men in this House, but in so far as matters with respect to my own constituency are concerned, I have only desired to be consulted in so far as I have a right to be consulted, having regard to the principle of government which we have established in this country. If I am not the representative of the constituency I might as well go home. If I have certain rights and privileges under our constitutional form of government, I feel that I would not be doing my duty to the people of

my constituency if I did not exercise what I believe to be my rights in their behalf.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Does not the hon. gentleman remember that not a great while ago he made a threat in this House that he was going to have certain officials dismissed and that he spoke as if he had charge of the Department of Customs? That did not strike me as being exactly the right position for a private member, although an influential member of the House and a supporter of the government, to take. Then the Minister of Militia and Defence has stated, and it has not been denied by the hon. gentleman, that the great objection which he raised to the purchase of these automobiles was that the manager of this company, Mr. McGregor, happened to be a Liberal. I think the hon. gentleman had no right to object simply for the reason that the minister should have exercised his best judgment in making the purchase of these automobiles.

Mr. WILCOX. I cannot allow the statement of the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) to go unchallenged.

I recognize my hon. friend to be a very acute and shrewd politician, and the motive which actuated him to make the statement he has just made is to enable him to play a little game of politics up in North Essex. I cannot allow that statement to go unchallenged. I want to say again that I did not, and I do not now, and I do not intend in the future, to bulldoze anybody in this House. But as a free representative of a free people I intend to exercise in this parliament the right which I have under the constitution. As to the reference about Mr. McGregor being a Liberal, I have evidence from a shareholder in the firm that Mr. McGregor never took any part in politics. It does not make any difference whether he did or not so far as I am concerned. I realize that the system of government we have in this country, is a party system, and that human ingenuity has never devised a better system of government than the party system, and I have absolutely no hard feelings towards a Liberal. If this matter is regular and right, all right. I have stated my position clearly to the House, and to the country, and to my constituents and upon that position I will stand or fall.

Mr. MACDONALD. Will the minister bring down to-morrow all the papers in connection with the purchase.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). We will bring down all the papers.

Mr. McCREA. No doubt the minister is a first-class Minister of Militia, but he is a bad purchasing agent. I know that some time ago the Ford Motor Company would