

5.—That "it is intolerable that my recommendations, made in the best interests of the force, should be so grossly interfered with by any Minister not connected with the Department."

6.—That an *extraordinary lack of etiquette* was involved in scratching the name of a gentleman put forward by a man whose business it is to find officers for the militia. "But on personal grounds, gentlemen," Lord Dundonald said in his speech, "I don't in the least mind. *Lack of etiquette affects me little. I have been two years in Ottawa, gentlemen.* It is not on personal grounds that I inform you of this, but it is on national grounds. I feel, gentlemen, anxious, profoundly anxious, that the militia of Canada may be kept free from party politics."

A copy of the published speech was sent to Lord Dundonald by the Minister of Militia, with a request to be informed if it correctly reported His Lordship's utterances.

In answer, Lord Dundonald replied that the report was substantially what he said, except that he also stated that Mr. Fisher had interfered with the organization of the corps, and with the names of other proposed officers besides Dr. Pickel; but he denied having said that "all appointments" are made in the militia through political intrigue.

No excuse, explanation or defence was offered by Lord Dundonald to his Minister for *conduct so clearly against the regulations* of the department, which forbid an officer to bring accusations against superior officers or comrades before the tribunal of public opinion, by speech or printed letter, or to show discourtesy and want of respect to the civil authorities.

The speech was read in the House of Commons on June 9th, and the following day was fixed by the Government for making a statement upon it. When the House met at three o'clock, on June 10th, the Minister of Militia had put into his hands a copy of a Memorandum of Lord Dundonald's defence, the original of which had been supplied to Mr. Sam. Hughes, a member of the Opposition.

THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE.

A full statement in answer to the accusations of Lord Dundonald was made by Hon. Sydney Fisher in the House of Commons on June 10th, which was endorsed in every particular by Sir Frederick Borden, Minister of Militia. Mr. Fisher had taken an active interest in the organization of the corps, because the several squadrons composing it were formed in the part of the Province of Quebec in which he lives. He denied that he had opposed the selection of any officer on political grounds, and stated that he had objected to Dr. Pickel because it was proposed to make that person the major of a squadron at Sweetsburg without his possessing any military qualifications. He also stated that in the case of this squadron all officers had been selected through the influence of a Conservative leader in the locality because they were Conservatives—the commanding officer of the corps being himself an outsider, and not knowing the people there. *It was to prevent political interference in the appointment of officers*, Mr. Fisher said, and *not to introduce it*, that he had objected to the proposed selection for the Sweetsburg squadron. It was as Acting Minister of Militia, in the temporary absence from Ottawa of Sir Frederick Borden, that he had struck the name of Dr. Pickel off the list, and not as Minister of Agriculture, as alleged by Lord Dundonald. He had done so in consequence of an agreement arrived at between the Minister of Militia and Col. Whitley, commander of the cavalry brigade of the district, and of Col. Smart, commanding officer of the Eastern Townships corps. He had done so, besides, upon receipt of a letter from Col. Smart, informing him that Dr. Pickel did not wish to join the corps, requesting him to strike that person's name from the list, and urging him to use expedition in sending the proposed list to Council,—and in this request and representation Col. Smart was joined by Col. Whitley. Lord Dundonald knew all these facts. He knew that Mr. Fisher was acting for