

Later on he says :

I had no desire to force my policy upon the ministry.

I do not question the sincerity of Lord Dundonald when he spoke thus, but when he tells us that he had no intention of imposing his views on the ministry, I say that to me there is evidence abundant in the paper which comes from his own pen that he misconceived his own mind in that regard, because Lord Dundonald tells us—and that is one of the grievances he has against the Minister of Militia, and one of the causes of difficulty that have led to this unfortunate conclusion—that he embodied his policy in his report and wanted it published. He had intended it, he says, "for publication." Again I ask, what right has the General Officer Commanding the militia to write a report for publication? And what right has he, and where shall we find that he has the power to write a report which he wants to have circulated in the press, debated on the platform, circulated all through the columns of publicity. Sir, the commander of the militia writes a report for his minister, and it is for his minister to decide whether that report is to be published or not to be published. But, Sir, I say this,—and this is a point at issue between the hon. gentleman opposite and us; they pretend on the other side, endorsing the policy of Lord Dundonald, that the Minister of Militia was bound to bring down the report which Lord Dundonald had intended for publication. I distinctly say: no; I take issue with them on this point. I will leave this point aside for the present, but will revert to it later on, and shall substantiate my views by authority. But, Sir, before I depart from the subject let me say that it is with me a grievance against the General Officer Commanding—and again I say I would not say a harsh word against him under the painful circumstances which are his, I would not do a thing of that kind—but I have to say that one grievance which I for one have against the late commander of the forces is that in every possible way he sought to bring his views, the views which he had placed before the minister and which had not been accepted by him, before the public and to raise the issue which is now in question between him and the Minister of Militia. Why, Sir, in a speech which was delivered by Lord Dundonald the first of April, 1903, he referred to his views. He said:

Though I have recommended certain steps which I think are necessary for the militia, I wish here emphatically to deny a falsehood current in certain papers, namely, that I was much annoyed that \$12,000,000 was not provided in this year's estimates for the militia for capital expenditure. If \$12,000,000 was provided at this moment I could not with the moderate proposals I made recommend its expenditure with advantage in a year. Such expenditure might well be spread over two or three years on that organisation.

Here you have the fact that although the Minister of Militia had not been willing to accept the report of Lord Dundonald, to make it the basis of his policy or to bring it before parliament, yet Lord Dundonald proceeded to give to the public what was, at all events, the generic idea which he had in his mind with regard to the policy he wanted followed.

What Are the G. O. C.'s Duties?

Let me leave this for a moment, although later I may return to it again. But I will ask a question here, and it is a question which I think is fair. What are the duties of the commander of the forces in Canada? Sir, I think I can answer that in an easy way. Everybody will agree with me that the duties of the commander of the forces ought to be and are analogous to the duties of the commander of the forces in Great Britain. Upon this point, to be absolutely sure, I quote to the House an authority which will not be questioned, that is