

been wounded or are ill in South Africa, and let their friends and relatives have information about them as soon as possible. I am told that it is utterly impossible for any private individual to obtain information concerning any relative who is wounded or ill at the seat of war. Cables have been sent, but they have had to pass through certain channels and have remained unanswered. The only source of information these people have is through the Militia Department here, and, I think, that the House should see that the minister is clothed with sufficient power to obtain that information in order that it may be transmitted at the earliest possible moment to the families of those suffering.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The information which we receive here is the information which comes through the Commander in Chief, and is precisely the information which is sent to the War Office in England. We get all the information which goes forward to the War Office, and I do not know that any action which can be taken by this House could add anything to our facilities. I think we are obtaining now all the information we could possibly obtain under the existing condition of things in South Africa; all the information which the Commander in Chief thinks it necessary to forward. I would be very glad to have representations made through the proper channels, if it is thought desirable to do so, but I do know that we receive all the information which the people of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and other parts of the empire (who are quite as much interested as we are), receive, and with which they seem to be content.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty; and the proposed motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Mr. Speaker, before I resume the debate upon the motion of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), I should like to say that the Private Hornibrook, who was complimented in the official despatches from the seat of war, which have been read to this House, is a member of an old Haldimand family, and a brother-in-law to Mr. William Lount, Q.C., late member of this House for Toronto.

I regret, Sir, that you, yourself, and a large number of the members of this House were absent during the late hours of yesterday's sitting. I think I bear out the opinions of my colleagues who were here, when I say that we were treated to an acrobatic exhibition the

equal of which has scarcely ever been seen in this parliament; and I venture to say that we shall scarcely ever witness its equal again, unless some time in the future the member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) should take it into his head to announce to the House that he was the originator of the idea of sending contingents to South Africa, and of proving that the whole matter, in its conception and carrying out, rested with himself. We are not unaccustomed, Sir, to hon. gentlemen upon the Treasury benches swallowing themselves. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) each session since 1896 has swallowed himself in one of those characteristic speeches to which we occasionally listen; but he always does it with a grumble and a growl. The member for North Norfolk last night did it with evident pleasure and satisfaction. I ask hon. gentlemen from both sides to read his speech, and after they have done so, they will, I am sure, conclude with me that the hon. gentleman succeeded in proving, not only that every opinion which he expressed upon trade matters in this House for eighteen years was arrant nonsense and humbug, but that no one with half a measure of sanity would ever have expressed such opinions. There was a time, Sir, when the member for North Norfolk was supposed to have opinions of his own, and to be prepared at all times to express those opinions without the permission and with no fear of any one upon the Treasury benches. But the fleshpots of Egypt have been too inviting and too promising for the hon. gentleman; and if he still holds any opinions of his own, he dropped them, mildly and humbly following at the beck and nod of his masters in the administration, and growing louder even than they in denouncing the policy which he supported only a few years ago. If half a decade of years ago an hon. member of this House had prophesied that in this year of grace 1900 we should find the member for North Norfolk expressing those opinions he expressed last night, the House would have been surprised at the audacity of such a prophet, the opinion, for instance, that upon a trade matter it was dangerous for this House to express an opinion at all, as we might disturb the flow and increase of that Imperial spirit which is filling the empire to-day; so warm a devotion for the motherland that he was not only willing to give our markets for nothing, but to call the man who wanted to get something in return rankly disloyal; the opinion that we should stop truckling to the United States of America, whose policy had always been narrow, unfair, unjust and illiberal towards us. These are the things which *Hansard* says the member for North Norfolk said to this House last night; and by whom, Sir, are they said? They are said by a gentleman who for eighteen years urged and prayed the people of this coun-