

who was turned down by the British War Office as not being fit for the position. Such a condition of affairs requires some explanation before we go any further in spending money in regard to the management of matters in the hands of people who evidently have not the proper knowledge or training to fulfil the functions of the important positions they hold. We have the statement made here to-day by the ex-Minister of Militia of \$100,000 being lost, or ten times whatever might be his salary, through the maladministration of a man who was not very well qualified for his position. But if we had a man who was not qualified, even if he received no salary at all, his inefficiency might cost this country hundreds of thousands, aye, millions of dollars. That is what is going to be brought about by appointing to office men who are not fit for their positions. They may be good men for other lines of business, but war is a particular class of work which requires a particular class of training. The fact that a man may have a good business head so far as other affairs are concerned does not give one any guarantee that he is a good general or a good handler of soldiers.

So far as the general management of the Militia Department and the war is concerned, I, as an elector of this country and a member of this House, am not satisfied with the condition of things. We expect in a government the greatest confidence as between themselves. There may be frictions, but those frictions must give way, and the general action of the Government must be absolutely unanimous. There must be to the outside world evidences of conclusions reached by the unanimous judgment of the council before actions of the greatest importance are submitted to the country. Since the war broke out, the most important department of government has been the Militia Department, but we have had for some time before us the clearest evidence that that department was broken in two without the slightest consultation beforehand with the head of that department. We find the authority of the Minister of Militia in our overseas military affairs, all the arrangements which he had made for proper communication between his office at Ottawa and the management of the troops overseas smashed without any knowledge at all on his part. We have him lifted out of office, and his position made impossible by the appointment of a minister on the other side of the water and of a secretary here. We have, indeed, the ex-Min-

[Mr. MacKenzie.]

ter of Militia put into the position of the rascally, disobedient and rebellious tenant, who refuses to give up his house. The doors are taken out; the windows are taken out; and the top is torn off the chimney, so that the place is made absolutely uninhabitable, and he must leave. That is the sort of structure that was gathered around the head of the ex-Minister of Militia, so that he had to go out. He was fumigated out and smoked out, without his consent. That seems to be the condition of things prevailing in this Government, and we have no explanation in regard to it. The ex-Minister of Militia has been throwing bricks and books and all sorts of things at the Government since he came out, but nobody replies at all, the Government evidently thinking that silence is golden, and that no matter what reply might be made, it is better to keep quiet. The way in which the Militia Department and the administration of the war is handled does not show unity of purpose. It is only fair to point out their faults to the Government, in a mild way, as I am doing now, and to hope, in the future, at all events for the little future they may have, that they will be careful and penitent and lead a better life.

Hon. J. D. HAZEN (Minister of Marine and Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I do not desire to pose before this House as having any special knowledge with regard to military matters—

Mr. GRAHAM: Except the navy.

Mr. HAZEN: —or as being an expert with regard to land forces at all, but I have been somewhat surprised at the statement made this afternoon as to the capacity of General Gwatkin as Chief of the General Staff. There were two different periods when I was acting as Minister of Militia during the absence of the hon. member for Victoria and Haliburton (Sir Sam Hughes). I met at that time General Gwatkin, who, hon. gentlemen are aware, was in the Militia Department before this Government came into power, and who, when General Mackenzie retired, was promoted to the higher position on the recommendation of the Minister of Militia. I came into contact with General Gwatkin daily for a period covering several months at meetings of the Militia Council and in other ways. As Chief of the General Staff, General Gwatkin has charge of the mobilization and training of the men who belong to the Canadian forces preparatory to their going overseas. From my observations I came to the conclusion that General Gwatkin