

out the country. That is the scheme. It is not a mystery which I wish to keep from my hon. friend. I am quite aware of the responsibilities of the position and what I owe to this House, and I have no wish whatever to keep any details from my hon. friends. The only item I have not explained was the appointment of this additional officer on the headquarters staff. This suggestion comes from General Herbert and it meets with my sympathy and approval. I have laid it before my colleagues and no doubt it will meet with their approval also.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman is surely not serious in asking the House to believe that a single appointment covers the scheme for the reorganization of the staff by which the General proposes to "gain economy in administration combined with the systematic instruction of staff officers in those important branches of their duty which have been hitherto ignored." Why, Sir, there never was such an indictment brought against the militia of any country. We have been voting millions of money year after year for a department under the charge of the present Postmaster-General, and the public have supposed and believed that good results would follow. And now we are told that the whole thing is a farce and that the condition is one of "military impotence." The General is not a mere phrase-monger. Active men in his position are not given to using words they do not mean, they are practical men. When he uses serious and grave language of that kind I take it that he means what he says; and when he says that he has submitted a scheme which will alter this state of affairs entirely and make the militia efficient, I take it that he means what he says. The hon. gentleman surely would not ask us to believe that the single appointment of which he speaks is the whole scheme of reorganization which the General refers to. I hope the hon. gentleman will either take us into his confidence or withdraw the vote.

Mr. HUGHES. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentleman misunderstands the language of the report and the nature of this vote. The General's Report deals with the question of organization, and not with a question of efficiency on the part of the men. The report deals with the executive department, and not with the fighting qualities of the force. It is true these two things must go hand in hand in the upbuilding of a militia force, but I presume that the Minister of Militia, before he has been long in the harness, will have fully considered the scheme of the General. What that scheme is I do not know, but, judging by the ability he has displayed in those portions of the report with which I am familiar, I have no doubt that it is something thorough and radical. But the report of the General, as you will notice, speaks of "the outward semblance of a military body, devoid of the organization which constitutes the living spirit and motive

power of such a body." We have on paper a force of about thirty or forty thousand men. There is no doubt that force is not what it ought to be. It cannot be on such a small vote as is given. I have a notice on the Paper to which I intend to speak when it is reached. I shall then endeavour to present to the Minister of Militia and to this House the plan under which I think the fighting qualities, if I may use the term—possibly it would have a tendency to run hand in hand with the organization of the staff—would be considerably improved as compared with the present condition. We have in Canada many of the necessary qualities for a first-class military force. But we have, unfortunately, a large amount of what is absolutely unnecessary and detrimental to the force.

Mr. LISTER. Mouldering branches.

Mr. HUGHES. Yes, Sir, mouldering branches, planted under the old regime, mouldering branches which I have been for many years endeavouring to have lopped away. I hope that under efficient management of the present Minister of Militia necessary reforms will be effected.

Mr. LISTER. We are trying the present Minister. We shall see how he gets along.

Mr. McMULLEN. I don't want unnecessarily to worry the hon. Minister, but from the answers he has given to questions that have been asked regarding the Major-General's recommendation, I think it is highly desirable that he should inform the committee as to whether he intends to adopt the changes in the staff to which Major-General Herbert refers in the last clause of his report. The hon. Minister has asked the committee to vote a sum to provide for the staff officers. From the report of the Major-General it seems plainly apparent that the organization is not the best. If that is clear, then it is still more clear that a different organization is necessary. Then he goes on to say that he outlined that organization; he has made a recommendation with regard to what it should be, how it should be constituted, the shape and form, and everything connected with it; and he says that he has urged its adoption. Now, the hon. member from Prince Edward Island asks: Is the Minister prepared to say that he is going to organize on the basis recommended by the Major-General, and what is the recommendation? We want to know what it is, and if he is prepared to organize the entire militia force on the basis recommended. I think we ought to know what the Minister intends to do, when we look at the fact that we have been spending from a million and a quarter to a million and a half a year on our militia force, and when we have before us a report of the Major-General, declaring that it is inefficient, it is disorganized, and in a demoralized condition. The whole thing, from top to bottom, from