

## LORD DUNDONALD

### I. His Office, Offence, and Removal for Cause.

By Order in Council of the Government of Canada, the Earl of Dundonald was appointed General Officer Commanding in the militia service, July 20th, 1902, and by Order in Council he was relieved of command, for cause, June 14th, 1904. The power to appoint and to dismiss rests alone with the Canadian Government.

The Minister of Militia is responsible to Parliament for the administration of militia affairs. He is required to take the initiative in all matters involving the expenditure of money, and no new corps or regiment of militia may be organized without his authority and direction. But the Minister, of his own motion, cannot appoint an officer of the militia force; he can only recommend a person to Council for a commission.

The General Officer Commanding is the principal adviser of the Minister of Militia on all military questions. Under the Militia Act and Regulations he is charged with the duty of selecting and proposing fit and proper persons for commissions in the militia. *But the General has no power of appointment, and his proposals may be accepted or rejected at the will of the Minister.* He is subordinate to the Minister, and subject to the rules of the civil service, as well as to the regulations and discipline of the department in which he serves.

The regulations and orders for the militia, made under the Act, have the authority of a statute, and by them an officer is not permitted to bring accusations against superior officers or comrades before the tribunal of public opinion. Such a proceeding, by public speech or printed letter, would be, by the regulations, "in glaring violation of the rules of military discipline and in contempt of authority."

#### LORD DUNDONALD'S OFFENCE.

The offence of Lord Dundonald, which resulted in his being relieved of command, was a speech delivered by him at a military dinner in Montreal, June 4th, 1904, and published in the newspapers. Referring to the conduct of the Government in militia affairs, Lord Dundonald said:—

1.—That through *political intrigue* appointments in time of peace are made without regard to military efficiency, and to the great peril of the nation's safety.

2.—That officers in command of the forces of this country are unfortunately selected because of their particular politics.

3.—That *a most flagrant instance* of political interference had just occurred in the case of a list of officers selected for the Scottish Light Dragoons, in the Eastern Townships, by the commanding officer of the corps, and sent by Lord Dundonald to the Minister for approval and transmission to Council. "The list, having my approval, was returned with the name of one officer stricken off, and initialed by the Minister of Agriculture," Hon. Sydney Fisher.

4.—That the name stricken from the list was that of Dr. Pickel, of Sweetburg; but his political color was not that of the Minister of Agriculture, "and consequently, he was not considered fit to serve his King in the military force of Canada."