

hon. member suggested. He wished the hon. member to state distinctly whether he referred in his remarks to the present or to the late Government.

Mr. GILBERT referred to the present Government. He knew they had but lately come into power, but they could have taken the coming summer to look into the matter, and do what they could to secure an arrangement with the Mother Country. It is now a time of peace, amicable relations are existing between England the United States, there are no signs of war or rumours of war, and it has been distinctly stated that if any difficulties arise they will be such as can only be settled by diplomacy. There was a time when forebodings of war might have taken possession of the minds of hon. members; the difficulties with regard to the *Alabama* seemed imminent, but that had passed away, and the feelings of the two countries now are friendly and amicable. Under these circumstances he could not see any necessity for the grant to be increased. He had read the despatches from Col. Winter, but he believed if this country were set right there would be no difficulty. The new militia law, it was said, was to contain a clause for the men to be taken and drafted into the militia. He was sure this would not go down with the people of this country. He supposed the grant would pass, but he did not believe it would be endorsed by the people of this Province. It might be all very well to let men see who was the best marksman by shooting at a bull's-eye or a target, but the money could be expended in a more profitable manner. He hoped that at any rate arrangements would not be made with an eye to the position a man occupied in the militia. He did not see why the money should be taken from the bye-roads, and he hoped hon. members, whether they were colonels or lieutenant-colonels, would pause before they took the funds that should go to this purpose, and allow it to be blown about the country with no benefit to any one.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said his hon. colleague seemed to think he was the exponent of the minds and feelings of the whole country, and asks what change has taken place that so much money should be granted for militia purposes. Was he not aware of the change? Did he not know that the country had passed through a great change within a very short time? Did he not know that he had fought through, side by side, with the men he now took to task, a campaign that involved the prosperity or the destruction and ruin of this country? His hon. colleague had remarked that a change had taken place in his feelings, and he would say that he had changed, that he had felt that the pressure of the times called for a change. Reference had been made to those gentlemen who had gone from Canada to England; and he would ask: is it their intention to force upon us a scheme that this country has refused? When we see how nobly Nova Scotia has acted in this matter, and at a time when Canada is striving to show that this country is not willing to do her share toward defence, he thought, seeing this, that it was time to put forth greater exertions than ever to vie with our sister Province in showing to England that we still are attached to her, and are willing to do what we can to defend her interests if the emergency demands. He believed the people of the country would uphold the Go-

vernment in the course pursued, and see that they were acting in the service of the country, and to show the Mother Country that we are willing to maintain ourselves as an integral portion of the British empire. He would call the attention of the House to a speech made by Mr. Fitzgerald in the House of Commons, on the 13th of March, on the grant of £50,000 for the defences of Quebec. He said—

"He did not believe there were the men in the House or in this country who would say that they would gravely determine to abandon the Canadas to their own defence, to lend them no assistance, to withdraw our troops for fear they should be defeated or taken prisoners of war. He did not believe there was a single man in the House or out of it who would assent to a course so disastrous and so disgraceful to the British name."

\* \* \* His belief was that if Canada were independent to-morrow she would run not the slightest danger of a contest. There were impediments, financial, industrial and political, which would interfere with any project on the part of the American Govt. for annexing Canada. His belief was that they would be content to see the colony, if independent, growing up side by side with them. But that was not the position of Canada. She was united to this country, and wished to remain so."

Another gentleman, Mr. W. E. Forster, also said:

"There was a question raised as to the respective shares of expense to be borne by this country (Great Britain) and by Canada, for defending the latter. Into that question he was not disposed to enter, because the principle was becoming every day more established that the relations between this country and the Colonies of British North America was very much on the basis of a defensive alliance between two self-governing communities united together by an allegiance to one legitimate sovereign. Therefore we had a right to call on the North American Colonies by organization and union to assist in their own defence, and to prove their patriotism by a willing contribution of money and men."

Mr. Caldwell, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in speaking of what the Government proposed to do, said:—

"The report laid on the table (that of Col. Jarvis on the defences of Canada) points to the fortifications of Montreal and Quebec, positions of the greatest importance for the defence of Canada. The defence of Quebec we engage to undertake; the defence of Montreal we called on the colony to undertake. The armament of both we are willing to undertake, so that the division of expense will be about two-fifths to the mother country and three-fifths to the Colony."

As long as Canada made no exertions, and showed no readiness to prepare for her own defence, we felt it would be wrong in us (the Government) to come to the House, and ask for Imperial money to defend Canada; but the moment that spirit was shown which was manifested in the autumn of last year, it became our duty to come and ask the House of Commons to enable us to give assistance to Canada. \* \* \* A war with Canada is a war with England. The Imperial forces will be brought to the aid of Canada, and wherever it will be most effective in destroying the power of the enemy, there will the Imperial power be exercised."

When we see that this the spirit of the

British Government, and the despatches which have passed; when we find that it was the men who favored Confederation and who stated that we were not doing what we ought to do in this matter, who virtually pressed upon the British Government the necessity of urging us to do more in our own defence; he said when we see all this, and that England is willing to help us in the hour of our necessity, they should be willing to pass such a sum as this for the Militia. If this were done, and England saw we were in earnest, he had no doubt but that a much larger sum than ever before would be expended on fortifications, although they already spent for Military purposes in this Province over \$100,000 a year. His hon. colleague spoke of the cry of the back-woodsman; he wished his hon. friend to know that he had a heart to feel for the back-woodsman too, and he knew that money was needed for the bye-roads, but he would tell his hon. friend that the back-woodsman could tell what was bunkum and what was not. Looking at surrounding circumstances he was sure that if they did not pass the grant they would not be doing their duty.

Mr. McMillan said it seemed that the reason why the hon. President of the Council had changed his opinions and military feelings from nothing to \$30,000 was that we had had an election. He thought it must have been something outside of the British Government. Was it on account of them that fears arose? Is not our position as amicable now as it was when his hon. friend opposed any grant to the Militia? The hon. President of the Council had spoken of bunkum in connection with the bye-roads; did not he last year ask for \$10,000 to be granted to bye-roads? Was that bunkum? There certainly was not the same hostile feeling evinced now as last Session when the grant was but \$20,000.

Mr. McLELLAN quite agreed with the hon. member for Westmorland, (Mr. Gilbert), that this sum of money could be used for a better purpose than this. But then the hon. member did not know how soon he might be in a Government, and find that from outside influences he might be driven to go for just such grants, in opposition to his wishes, and against his own ideas of what was right. His Excellency, in one of his despatches, had said that the money appropriated to Militia purposes was not fixed by law, but annually voted by the House, although not without opposition. The grant will be voted now, no doubt, without any difficulty, seeing the great changes that have taken place. He agreed with the hon. member for Carleton that the Bill should have been laid before the House before passing the grant. The hon. President of the Council had said that the scheme to which he was opposed, was likely to enslave the country. It is well that they make the first step, the first concession to the principles upheld by those who favored it, namely, the policy of putting ourselves in a better state of defence. It is said that on account of what they are doing in Canada a large grant is to be made. This is the cause, the pressure from abroad and from the Home Government, that causes them to grant such a large sum in opposition to their own feelings in the matter. It is a source of congratulation to the friends of Confederation, that if such a change comes over the Government on the great ground-work of the scheme, that a further change may ensue; and he was satisfied from the speeches he had heard to-day, that this