

sary, I should like to know from him who would be the judge of the need of Canadian troops going and whether the Parliament of Canada would have any say in the matter.

Mr. STEVENS: I understand that by the Militia Act it would be necessary for Parliament to take action, but I am prepared to support a measure to-day that the matter should be left in the hands of the Governor in Council or the Minister of Militia and that the Canadian troops should be permitted to go at any time.

Mr. CLARK: I understand that my hon. friend's position in regard to the military forces is exactly the position of my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition in regard to the naval forces.

Mr. W. M. GERMAN (Welland): Mr. Chairman, as we are now on clause 4 of the Bill, I desire to make a few remarks before we glide naturally, gradually and gaggedly into the next clause. We had a very excellent entertainment this afternoon. What has happened and what is happening is exactly what I knew, and what we knew, would happen in regard to these new rules, called the closure rules. It exemplifies entirely the wisdom of my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition in moving his amendment which suggested that these resolutions should be submitted to a select committee of the House, together with the Speaker, to revise and amend the rules. The rules would have been revised and amended and submitted to this House in a form that would have been intelligent, intelligible and understandable. At the present time there are very few, if any, in this House who really understand what these new rules mean. The hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Meighen) gave an interpretation of the rules this afternoon which the Government and his political friends surrounding him repudiated. I doubt if the right hon. leader of the Government is clear in his own mind as to the meaning of these rules. As a matter of fact, he stated that he would be pleased, at another session of Parliament, to have all the rules submitted to a committee, revised and put in intelligible shape. What we saw this afternoon fully exemplifies the wisdom of the leader of the Opposition, who for forty years has stamped his genius on the legislation of this country, in moving an amendment that these rules should be submitted to a committee where they could have been threshed out and, coming out of that furnace of intelligence, be put before this House in a form that would be understandable. The leader of the Government said that everything would be fair and comfortable and that they

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would take no advantage of these rules. When the rules were under discussion I submitted to the hon. member for Portage la Prairie that the interpretation was exactly as it turned out to be because he had to admit it to be so and it is: that a minister of the Crown can move that the consideration of a clause of a Bill be suspended and that the committee proceed with another clause; that he could move that the consideration of the second clause be suspended and proceed to another clause, and so on until you had reached the last clause in the Bill, and then a minister of the Crown could stand up in his place and give notice that when the committee met again there should be no further postponement. Then the House need not go into Committee of the Whole until two o'clock on the following morning and automatically that Bill would be carried through committee. The closure was there ahead of you, the door was locked, no further talk or further amendments. The hon. member (Mr. Meighen) said: of course that is the true interpretation of the rule, but no government but an insane government would attempt to enforce it. Well, Mr. Chairman, this Government is not only attempting to enforce it, but it is enforcing it and I leave hon. gentlemen opposite to their legitimate conclusions as to the sanity of the Government. I always knew this Government had not far to go to reach the portals of political insanity, but I did not think they would reach there quite so quickly as they have. However, we now know what they can do; we know what they will do when they want to do it, and we will simply have to govern ourselves accordingly, as I purpose doing. And, if it fits the complexion of hon. gentlemen opposite I do not believe we on this side of the House will complain very much. We can stand it if they can.

We are now considering clause 4, after some considerable difficulty in reaching it, and clause 4 of this Bill is:

The said ships when constructed and equipped shall be placed by the Governor in Council at the disposal of His Majesty for the common defence of the Empire.

I propose, Mr. Chairman, to move in amendment:

That all the words after the word 'be' in the second line shall be struck out and the following substituted therefor: subject to the provisions of the Naval Service Act.

The clause will then read:

The said ships when constructed and equipped shall be subject to the provisions of the Naval Service Act.

Let us see what the Naval Service Act says with regard to that matter: