

As pointed out in this report, the regular army in Great Britain is recruited from the ranks of the militia more largely than from any other source. That is one objection which is pointed out in this report to the actual conditions as they exist in Great Britain at the present time; the ranks of the militia are continually depleted by the best men leaving the militia and becoming recruits in the regular army. However my suggestion to the Minister of Militia was simply this, that no good purpose, it seemed to me, could be obtained by altering the law from what it was before. You will still have a government responsible for acting one way or the other, for sending troops out of Canada or refraining from doing so. The only tribunal to which an appeal can be made is parliament, and if parliament is to be summoned within fifteen days, where after all is the great advantage in altering the wording of the statute?

Mr. FIELDING. The explanation of the report which the hon. gentleman has read will be found in the English statute in which, after first distinctly stating that the militia shall not be ordered abroad, it goes on to provide that where men volunteer they may within a limited area be used in service abroad, but the limitation refers particularly to the Jersey Islands, the Channel Islands, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, and they may go as far as Malta and Gibraltar; but only to that extent, and then only when they volunteer.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The hon. gentleman is right up to a certain year, and since that year he is entirely wrong. I will read a summary of the law which says:

In 1859 a power was given to the sovereign to accept voluntary offers by the militia to serve in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man; this was extended by the Act of 1875 to service in Malta and Gibraltar; and as so extended was re-enacted in 1882. A further extension to any part of the world was made in 1898. At the same time the Crown was authorized to employ militiamen volunteering to serve, whether an order embodying the militia was in force at the time or not.

Every man in South Africa saw some of those volunteers in the militia uniform of the regular army; and they have served in other parts of the world since 1898.

Mr. FIELDING. The law to which I referred and which was placed in my hand by some friend, was passed in 1882. My hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Sam. Hughes) corrects me to the extent of saying that under a later amendment volunteers may go to any part of the world. But it is only when they volunteer; and the main fact still remains that the militia of Great Britain cannot be ordered beyond the confines of the United Kingdom. That, I am advised, is the law.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would judge from the statutes, which I have not examined

carefully, that they cannot go without their own consent. Still they go as an embodied part of the militia.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. There is nothing in the law to prevent them if they choose to volunteer. The government has no power in Great Britain, I understand, to order the militia of Great Britain to serve outside the United Kingdom. What the law may permit a man to do if he desires to do it of his own motion, is entirely a different matter.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. gentleman appreciates what I was trying to convey to the Minister of Finance. I was merely suggesting that they go as a body of militia with their consent.

Mr. GALLIHER. Volunteer militia, I think they are called.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If I do not make myself clear to the hon. member for Yale-Cariboo (Mr. Galliher) I am unfortunate. The militia are embodied in a regiment, a particular number of men are embodied in a regiment of militia. That regiment of militia cannot be ordered beyond the confines of the United Kingdom, but if the men, or a large number of men, are willing to go, then that regiment can go as a regiment of militia.

Mr. GALLIHER. As volunteers.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. No, they do not go under the English law as volunteers; they go as a regiment.

Mr. FIELDING. I would almost think that was correct. But still the main point remains; if the whole regiment were to volunteer and go as a body they would still be a body of militia and the Act contemplates that that can be done, but it is subject to the main provision of the statute that the militia shall not be carried or ordered out of the United Kingdom.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, the subject before us is of no little importance to the country and of no little importance to the future well-being of Canada. It is to be regretted that there have come up in the debate in regard to this measure some expressions that would seem to reflect or cast a doubt on the loyalty of a part of the people of this country, but I believe that when I look over the faces of the members of this House who are reflecting the opinions of the people of the whole of Canada there is no disloyalty in Canada. I believe I can speak for this House, and speaking for this House speak for the country when I say that Canada stands for the integrity of the empire not only in sentiment, not only in vapouring, speech not only in discussion in parliament, but for the integrity of the empire embodied in the legislation placed on the statute-book. Therefore, I say it is of no little importance that the world