

defence of the empire are not to do it in an emergency? I say that we do less than our duty if we are not prepared to do that. The Minister of Militia said that home defence is the destiny and duty of a militia. I differ with the hon. gentleman entirely on that point. I say that our militia in the wider sense of the term, means the defence of the empire to which we belong. If it does not mean that to hon. gentlemen opposite, at least the Canadian people believe that it does mean that or ought to mean that. That is what the loyal sentiment of this country stands for. And, if the law is not in accordance with the sentiment, let us amend the law and make it to read with the loyal sentiments of Canada.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Would the hon. gentleman allow me a moment to point out that not a single man of the militia of the United Kingdom can be ordered for service to this country, nor can a man of the militia of Australia or any part of the British empire.

Mr. SPROULE. But the Minister of Militia (Sir Frederick Borden) forgets that the defence of the empire is largely in the hands of the navy and that the regular army of Great Britain takes part in that work of defence throughout the world. But we have no regular army. In time of danger we can only call the militia the only defence we have. It represents to us both the army and the navy, or, if it does not, then, it is not what we desire that it should be. We have no navy and no standing army, and our militia must represent both until our organization is changed, and for that reason we should not amend this Act in such a direction as to curtail our power. I am not much of a militiaman, and am not familiar with military life, but bringing my common sense to bear on this Act, I have reached the conclusion that, by these amendments, our powers are circumscribed. This Act does not enlarge, but narrows our powers, taking away the rights we had and making those rights less than we recognized them to be in the past, and confining them within the limits of Canada. Suppose, as one hon. gentleman has said, there were an attack upon Newfoundland, which is almost a part of Canada. Suppose that through some complication of the French shore difficulty, the French fleet should be found off Newfoundland some morning. Should we be obliged to sit here idle, because we have no power to assist in the defence of that part of the empire until parliament was called together? Would that be doing our duty to the empire? Yet, that is something that might happen any day. I say that the impression upon the popular mind—rightly or wrongly—is that the trend of these amendments is in the direction of limiting the powers more and more, circumscribing them by the bounds of Canada and not extending them to the bounds

of the empire. Yet, were the British flag to be hauled down in any part of the world, how long would it remain over us in Canada. Not twenty-four hours. That being the case, it is incumbent upon us to be ready to do our part in the defence of the empire wherever that defence may be necessary, because in defending the empire we are defending ourselves.

Mr. INGRAM. The hon. minister told us that when he was in England there were four points agreed upon by the imperial defence committee and himself. May I ask, with respect to the general officer commanding and the establishment of a council as referred to in sections 7 and 30 of the Bill, is there any correspondence between the hon. gentleman and the imperial authorities?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No.

At six o'clock, committee took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The business before the committee is the further consideration of section 77 and the amendment thereto.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. That is the same as was agreed on.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes, by both the leader of the House and the leader of the opposition.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The leader of the opposition wishes me to read it.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. This is a new clause.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (reading):

Whenever the Governor in Council places the militia or any part thereof, on active service anywhere in Canada or beyond Canada, for the defence thereof, if parliament be then separated by adjournment or prorogation as will not expire within ten days, a proclamation shall be issued for the meeting of parliament within fifteen days, and parliament shall accordingly meet and sit upon the day appointed by such proclamation, and shall continue to sit and to act in like manner as if it had stood adjourned or prorogued for the same day.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Does this follow the provision of the English statute in that respect?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes, word for word.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why is it necessary to change the words of the former statute in view of the summoning of parliament? Why is it desirable?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. There was no provision in the former statute for call-