

pared to defend the empire. We are prepared to defend the empire, but, all the time, we wish to retain complete independence over ourselves as to what we shall do. We do not wish to be dragged into a war, but we want to be free to elect to go if such is our wish. But, under this clause, the Governor in Council will be limited and will not know what to do. They will say: Our powers are limited: We cannot send the forces of Canada outside of Canada except for the defence of Canada. If we are not ready to assume our responsibilities for the empire let us go about it in the proper way and arrange for separation.

Mr. MACPHERSON. Oh, oh!

Mr. MACLEAN. That is your intention.

Mr. MACPHERSON. Whose intention?

Mr. MACLEAN. It is the intention of whoever framed this Bill.

Mr. MACPHERSON. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Maclean) must be fair. There can be no intention of anything like that. Does he not know that only volunteers can be sent out of this country?

Mr. MACLEAN. I know what it says in this Bill.

Mr. TALBOT. What did the old Act say?

Mr. MACLEAN. It left the Governor in Council free. We had the matter before the House some days ago, and it was shown that the Governor in Council had power to send the Canadian forces outside of Canada without being limited by these words 'for the defence of Canada.'

Mr. TALBOT. No, the Governor in Council could not send them before.

Mr. MACLEAN. Then let us put it in this Bill.

Mr. HEYD. Nonsense. Would the hon. gentleman give the government power to send out militia to South Africa?

Mr. MACLEAN. Certainly. If the Governor in Council will assume the responsibility of doing it, then call parliament and let parliament ratify the Act if it thinks proper. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd) is a Liberal, and yet he proposes to limit the freedom of the parliament of Canada and of the Governor in Council.

Mr. HEYD. I would certainly limit them so that they cannot send out people to South Africa.

Mr. MACLEAN. Why?

Mr. HEYD. Because they have no right to do it.

Mr. MACLEAN. Let me tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd) why there should be no limitation. The mother country, with her soldiers and her sailors has defended Canada from all attack, no matter from

what side it threatened. She has spent her blood and treasure on this continent to maintain the integrity of Canada. Why should we restrict our government so that we cannot assist the mother country as she has assisted us? Why should not the people of Canada be at the service of the empire?

Mr. HEYD. Can the government of Great Britain send her own militia to South Africa?

Mr. MACLEAN. The militia is the only army we have. Now the hon. gentleman is pettifogging. The only army we have is this active militia, it is the forces of Canada, the only forces we have to defend this country. Now, I say when the empire is defending us in every quarter of the globe, why should not the services of the forces of Canada be at the service of the empire? The motherland has stood by us, as I said before, has fought all our battles, is defending us to-day, is defending the Canadian flag on every sea on the face of the globe. That being the case, why should we be limited as to what we should do in the matter? Let us be free. Let the Governor in Council assume responsibility. Let them call parliament, but let them have freedom to come to the defence of the empire in an emergency. War is an emergency, war has not ceased, it is springing up every day; and that being the case, we must be prepared not only to defend our own country but to defend the empire. And what has that empire done for the people of Canada? It has guaranteed to us that those institutions which we are proud of, and which we are trying to maintain on this continent—

Mr. TALBOT. What about our territory that she gave away?

Mr. MACLEAN. Granted that she did. The hon. gentleman comes from the province of Quebec, and the rights of the province of Quebec to-day are guaranteed by the empire and surely the hon. gentleman and all the other citizens of this country ought to stand by the empire, and be prepared to defend the empire that guarantees to us the form of government that we now enjoy. Now, if that is the case, why should we not be British, and outspoken in favour of British connection? Why should we go through this Act and combat out every reference to the empire? The soldiers in the militia swear loyalty to the King; we pray here that the King may overcome all his enemies; and surely if we are to have an empire, why not be prepared to defend it? Why not let the Governor in Council have full authority to do what they think proper in the circumstances—always provided that parliament is called, and always provided that Canada has complete control over her forces, complete independence of action, and that in no way can we be overridden by