

confidence in the men who ruled them, they could safely leave the matter with them. He was very far from wishing to make farmers military men, but if we were going to have a law let us make it as perfect and as useful as possible.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT read an extract which showed that the Act did not necessitate the calling out of the militia at all, and therefore it was not improbable that by reasoning with the Commander-in-Chief he might not call them out, unless there was actual necessity for it.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—If the law was that a portion of the militia were to be called out, then such a thing as drilling for ten days might be accomplished; but as the matter now stood, it could not be carried out, and unless there was more necessity than existed at present, it was better to call out none.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN said that in some settlements two-thirds of the people were fishermen, and it was unreasonable to suppose that they could all be got to attend muster on the same day; and what was the use of having a Bill that would be so obnoxious that people would not yield a cheerful assent to it. If the drill was for one or two days, it would be quite different. Take for instance an establishment where there were 210 fishermen employed; if you asked the half of these men to go one day, and the other half to go another, the probability was they would do so; but that they all could be got to attend drill for ten days was what he did not believe. He thought that a volunteer force of 100 men well drilled, would be more effective than 900 ordinary militia men. He believed if there were two or three thousand well armed and well drilled volunteers, that they could be made the nucleus of an effective force; but in carrying out a measure of this kind, care must be taken that it was not made too stringent. In some parts of his (hon. Mr. Howlan's) district, people lived two miles apart, and many would have to go from ten to twelve miles to attend drill. He thought if half were called out, and substitutes allowed to be taken, that it would be an improvement.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES felt disposed to oppose the Bill throughout. He did not consider that it was founded upon the principles of the Despatch from the Home Government. He thought that we should have a force so well trained that if an attack was made upon us the same could be made immediately available; and although we were unwilling to go into Confederation, yet we were willing to contribute our due proportion and fair share for the support of an efficient volunteer force, or an efficient militia. The reason he had opposed this Bill throughout was because it did not make a provision that was really practicable.

Mr. Speaker then resumed the chair, and the chairman reported that the committee had gone through the Bill and made several amendments thereto; which amendments were again read at the clerk's table, and agreed to by the House, and ordered to be engrossed.

Charlottetown Ferry.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. DAVIES, the House went into committee of the whole on the state of the Charlottetown Ferry. Hon. Mr. Laird took the chair of the committee.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES moved a resolution setting forth the grievances of said Ferry, and empowering the Government to remedy them. In moving this resolution he did so under the belief that the requirements of that Ferry were greater than was perhaps generally supposed. It was one of the most important inlets of this city. He might safely say that one-fourth of the travellers who visited Charlottetown came over that Ferry. Doubtless the boat should cross every half hour. The rules at present were an hour for breakfast, and the same for dinner, and a portion of Monday to repair the machinery. What was asked for seemed to be that the boat should run oftener, and that obstructions might be removed. During every low tide in the summer, in nearing the wharf, the boat grounded before the wharf was reached. It was quite common to see a whole boat load of people left there for an hour. This resolution authorized the Government to have this obstruction removed, and to put sidewalks on the Ferry Wharf; also to have the ferry slips and landings properly arranged, so that accidents might be guarded against.

Dr. JENKINS could fully endorse all that had been said by the hon. member for Belfast. He had himself often seen the boat detained for an hour on that middle ground. He also had known from his own experience the hardship and inconvenience experienced in not having the boat to run oftener, and also on account of the time allowed for breakfast and dinner. The middle ground should be dredged, or a second boat of lighter draught be put on the route. He hoped the House would take the matter up. He would second the resolution.

Mr. OWEN agreed fully with the statements of the hon. members who had spoken, and could endorse, from his own observation and experience, what they had said.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT remarked that to do this work efficiently would take a great deal of money. Perhaps the contractor would be willing to run oftener.

Dr. JENKINS.—The contractor said that he could not, that his boat and machinery would not stand the work. He thought the Government might obtain the Dredging Machine, deepen the water at the wharfs, and also remove the obstruction at the middle ground. He held that the Government ought to consider the importance of importing one for the public use.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON believed the safest course would be to subsidize parties to do this work; for, as a general rule, he believed that if any party was imposed upon it was the Government, the feeling being, oh! they could afford it. He thought if a Dredging Machine was required to do this work that it would be better to employ than to purchase one to do it. Every person who had ever crossed that ferry was aware that an improvement was now required; but the best way of effecting it was another question. He would say, let two boats be employed, one to draw less water than the other. That the wharfs were not what they ought to be, was clear and patent to every one.

Mr. HOWAT thought that it might not be wise to grant a sum sufficient, and that some estimate of the cost should have been made.