

stituents, but I am positive that so far as the other constituencies of Canada are concerned, the vast majority of them are in favour of justice to the men who are prepared to sacrifice themselves in defence of the country.

Mr. McCREARY. I do not think there is any necessity for that remark of the minister. I am willing to pay every man a fair wage for his work. But I am here responsible to my constituents, and I understand, though I have not seen the Bill, that it not only provides to increase the pay of the men actually engaged now in the militia, but to increase the number of soldiers in the country.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. It increases the permanent force, that is, it gives power to increase the permanent force, but it does not mean an increase in the active militia.

Mr. McCREARY. I say then that we ought to know what the actual expenditure is going to be by virtue of this Bill being passed, and for that reason I would ask that the Bill be allowed to stand until we have time to study it.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. If I may take the opportunity of intruding in this family quarrel, I would suggest that the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. McCreary) is not intending to be a candidate in Winnipeg where the militia is very strong. I would also suggest that his remarks would come with more force when we take up the resolutions a little further down on the order paper which deal directly with the question of pay and the increase in the pay of the men. This matter has been before the people for the last two or three years. I suggest that the minister should proceed with the Bill to-day and discuss it, and any section that is found debatable should be left over, which will give an opportunity for the gentlemen interested in this matter throughout the country to study it.

Mr. CLARKE. I am sure it would be a great advantage to us to have more time to consider the Bill, and if the Minister of Militia could see his way to implement the statement he made the other day in introducing the Bill, and to let us have printed copies of the Bill, we would be enabled to consult the gentlemen engaged in the active militia force throughout the country, and these might have an opportunity of advising their representatives, and of suggesting such amendments as they might desire to see made. As to the proposition to increase the pay of the members of the force, I for one, and I think I am reflecting the opinion of those I represent, heartily concur in the proposition of the minister. I think the men have been scandalously underpaid. The wonder has been that the government have been able to procure men for the miserable pit-

tance that has been paid to them in times past. But apart altogether from that question, there is the question of giving those who are actively engaged in the militia forces of this country an opportunity of studying the provisions of this Bill. It is true we have had discussions here, and have read the discussions which have taken place in this House during previous sessions as to the advisability of improving the status of the militia, and the necessity of giving increased pay to the militia, as well as of increasing the number of men who are to make up the strength of the force. But, apart altogether from that, now that the views of the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence and those who have advised him have been crystallized into a Bill, I think it is not unreasonable that those who are interested in the subject in all parts of the country should have an opportunity of having this Bill before them to consider its provisions for a few days before its discussion passes beyond this stage. I think if the hon. minister would make a further statement, if he has one to make, and then allow the Bill to stand at the present stage for two or three weeks, a reasonable opportunity would be given to militia officers and others who may be interested to present their views or suggestions as to any amendments which they proposed. I make this statement with the desire not of impeding the progress of the Bill, but rather with the view of accelerating its progress.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to make any further statement except as it might be necessary to make explanations upon the individual sections of the Bill. The statement which I made the other day, although it was very brief, I thought covered very fairly the salient points of the Bill and pointed out the differences between the law as it now exists and the Bill which I have introduced. So far as the opportunity for studying the Bill is concerned, I may tell my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke) and the committee that I have taken every opportunity possible that I could conceive of, of possessing myself of the views of the leading military men throughout the country. I may say to my hon. friend that every district officer commanding in Canada has been asked to give his views in reference to the proposed draft which we prepared over a year ago.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Have those who are not of the permanent corps been consulted?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Many of the district officers commanding are only theoretically members of the permanent corps. In addition to that I may tell my hon. friend that I brought to Ottawa such officers as Colonel Otter—

Mr. CLARKE. A good man.