

lose the time. He considered it a serious matter to interrupt the agricultural, mercantile, and mechanical pursuits of the whole people for such a period, when it was well known that fifteen days' drilling would never qualify them for soldier's duty; but the volunteers could meet and drill as often as they pleased. If a foreign invasion was to take place, or was likely to happen, it would be different; every man would then be in earnest, and would feel it to be a pleasure and a duty to do all in his power for the defence of the country. But at present there was no more necessity for anything of the kind, than there was for our getting alarmed at the telegram read by the hon. member for Murray Harbor. The terror of Fenianism must not frighten us into foolish acts. As to the Bill, he thought hon. members opposite were under a mistake, and had been fighting with a phantom. The Bill brought down by the Government last year had been amended in committee, and surely members of the Government might submit an amendment to this one. It had been said that indifference on the part of the Government in this matter might be used as an argument for Confederation. The Government had not shown indifference on military matters. They intended to support the volunteers, and this they had made manifest in the appropriation for that service. Before the general election the late Government were going to do something for the volunteers, but these becoming offended, threatened their representative or the Government with their opposition. Again if the Commander-in-Chief did what they considered not fully right, they would not retain their arms. Men so acting lost respect for themselves. It was too much like a Bull's Run affair. He hoped, by-and-by, that the Volunteers would do better than to throw down their arms one day and take them up another. As to the exemption from statute labor, it was but three shillings a year, and was not a matter worth an exemption. If the bulk of the people on a road in the winter were exempted, there would not be enough to turn out to break the roads, and travelling for a time might be entirely stopped. In the summer it would not be of so much importance.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES would say that he believed there was some excuse for the Volunteers throwing down their arms; he would not say they did right, but there was a reason for their conduct. He was given to understand that before this scheme was kicked up, that they had been promised their clothes which were brought out from England. But when the election came on, the Volunteers acted independently, and voted as they thought proper; and as they did not happen to vote for the Conservative candidates, their clothing was withheld from them.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The statements of the hon. member for Belfast were not correct. Some clothing had been ordered from England for the Artillery Company, and there was some misunderstanding between the Commander-in-Chief and Captain Morris, on the part of the Company, as to how they were to be paid for. He had heard that the Commander-in-Chief understood that Captain Morris was to be responsible to the extent of forty shillings for each suit, while the latter understood differently. There was evidently a good deal of feeling manifested in the Company about the matter, and the Captain of the Company waited upon the Government for a solution of the difficulty. The hon. James Pope and Col. Smith came to him (hon. leader of the Opposition) and wished to get his assent to an arrangement. After considering the case, he thought it was a pity that such a fine orderly company should be without their clothing, and as the difference was so trifling, he said that under all the circumstances the Government should overlook the matter.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—That was what I stated.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. member said that when the clothing came, and the men voted against the Government the clothing was withheld.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES said that the Government conveyed the impression that the company would have their clothing given to them.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. member had said they showed their independence.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—And had they not done so in voting as they thought proper?

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION had advised that the Artillery Company should have their clothing.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—Did not Captain Morris say that if the Company did not get their clothing they would vote against the Government.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—He did not know. He could only say that he gave that advice before a vote was polled. If all happened before the election, and how then could it be said that the clothing was withheld because they did not vote for the Government?

DR. JENKINS was aware that very few of the Artillery Company voted for him.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—Captain Morris had showed to him a correspondence, in which the Captain complained that the clothing had not been given to the men. Captain Morris was asked to pay the money down when receiving the clothes, which would have amounted to about £200; but his request was that the clothing should be left with him, and as it was taken from him and paid for, he would be responsible. He (Mr. D.) thought that the Government should have looked into it and done what was right. He had heard that some of these Volunteers had voted for himself. He hoped it would be no impeachment of their loyalty. To do so was, no doubt, a great offence in the eyes of the late Government. He did not justify them for what they had done in laying down their arms, but he did wish that the hon. member for Georgetown had as intelligent a body of men at his back as many of them were. He hoped, too, that their old officer who had been dismissed would soon be restored to his former position.

Mr. BRECKEN.—The hon. Leader of the Government had spoken disparagingly of the Volunteers.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT had alluded to Volunteers in general, and had said that no confidence could be placed in them if they threw up their arms in time of need.

Mr. BRECKEN.—The hon. Leader of the Government had compared them to the "skeddadlers" at Bull's Run.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT would thus compare them still. It was the current report that a hint was given to the Leader of the then Government that if the clothing were withheld, the Company would vote against them.

Mr. BRECKEN denied the truth of that report,

Dr. JENKINS believed what his colleague had said. The members of that Company would, most of