

Policemen went to the place and preserved order, and nothing happened.

This legislation is to prevent unnecessary and extravagant expenditures in the calling of troops in distant parts of the country, where a disturbance may arise when they are absent; and I feel that it is justified. For example, in 1923, the permanent Militia from Winnipeg were called to Sydney, Cape Breton, and honourable gentlemen may remember that in the courts of Toronto recently it was stated by a responsible Minister of the Crown that certain action was taken in connection with an industrial dispute in that city because the troops from Toronto were in Nova Scotia at that time.

I hold that it is not in the interest of good government and public safety that a county judge in Nova Scotia, for example, should have the authority to call the permanent Militia from another Province, and in that way take away the protection that the militia affords in that other Province. I furthermore feel that it should not be within the power of a county judge to put the Federal Government to an expense of probably \$100,000 or more, when in all probability the expenditure of a small portion of that amount would suffice. Furthermore, there ought to be financial responsibility behind the authority that orders out or calls for the Militia.

The only criticism that I have to make of this Bill—and I do not know that it arises on this particular section—is that I think it should be made clear that the province should pay for the sending of troops only the additional cost over and above the permanent maintenance costs.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: That is the rule.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I think it is, but I do not think the Act says so. That is to say, if you have a permanent Militia that are under pay, the Province should not be expected to pay all the expenses, but simply the additional expense that the country is put to.

In times past there have been numerous instances in which troops have been called out, and in which neither the municipality nor the Province concerned has attempted to meet the cost, which has been saddled upon the Federal authorities. I hold that there ought to be some brake put upon local officials and that the person empowered to requisition troops should be none other than the Attorney General of the Province.

I have no objection to the amendment of the honourable gentleman from Edmonton,

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON.

because cases might arise in which the Attorney General would want to act of his own motion. I think he ought to have that power.

Hon. Mr. McCORMICK: That seems a reasonable solution. I do not think anyone should object to that. If that condition is put in, and the Attorney General has to give the order, and the Province has to furnish the funds for the transportation, it is not likely that more troops than are actually required will be called for. I am prepared to accept that.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: The Government pays the soldiers their ordinary pay. The only expense the Province would be called upon to pay would be for moving them on the train, or extra expense incurred by the men in living away from their barracks. Their pay would be the same.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: That is so in the case of the permanent force. But the moment you call upon the active non-permanent Militia, their pay and expenses begin at once.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: I think we are not in order in discussing on this clause the question of who pays the expense. That will come up later on clause 89, and we will have the whole thing over again. I think we had better proceed clause by clause. This clause has more to do with the question of who shall call out the militia than with the question of who shall pay for them.

Hon. SMEATON WHITE: I would like to have my amendment to strike out this clause put before the Committee. It seems to me that the purpose of this provision is to make it more difficult to obtain troops. As honourable gentlemen know, in 1919 a number of labour men appeared before a Commission of which I was a member and urged that the Government had no right to send troops to a place where there was a riot caused through a labour disagreement. When those riots occur, it is not a matter of days, but possibly of hours or minutes. The old Act worked perfectly well; and I think the purposes of this section is to make it more difficult to obtain troops. I therefore ask that it be struck out.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: The real purpose behind this clause is this. There are certain Provinces in this Dominion which maintain efficient police forces at their own cost. In the province of Alberta—and to a less extent in the province of Saskatchewan—