

throughout the world that we should proclaim upon our statute-book that we would not do such a thing in the defence of the empire. We are not saying that the government should have unrestricted power to send them out, but that they should have it subject to the reasonable safeguard that exists in the old law as it stood, which would give all the protection needed and avoid conveying to the world the offensive idea that we are not prepared to do our duty to the empire at large.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I do not wish to impute motives to anybody in the House, but it does seem to me difficult to understand what possible good such a speech as that just delivered by the hon. gentleman can possibly serve. I am afraid that he is not so much exercised as to what the rest of the world may think about this particular section of the statute as he is anxious by hook or by crook to say something or do something that will prejudice a certain portion of the people against this government. The hon. gentleman has asked, with an affectation of much anxiety, what the world will think, and what the rest of the British empire will think of Canada—though I have told him over and over again that upon the statute-book of every colony of the British empire is to be found precisely the same provision as he is now criticising. And, Sir, upon the statute-book of the mother country herself, the hon. gentleman will find this :

Section 12, part 3. Any part of the militia shall be liable to serve in any part of the United Kingdom but no part of the militia shall be carried or ordered to go out of the United Kingdom.

Why, the hon gentleman out-Herods Herod. He is more loyal than the King. But let him look at the statute-book of that colony which, I believe, according to its population and means sent more men and spent more money than any other part of the British empire in the South African war—I refer to New Zealand—and in the Militia Act of that colony he will find the following :

The Governor may, by a proclamation in the 'Gazette,' direct the commander of the forces, to draw out with all convenient speed all of the defence forces therein for actual service, and to lead the said forces into any part of the district or colony which may seem best and to which such forces can be lawfully taken.

And the same thing is true of the law of Australia :

Members of the defence force who are members of the military forces shall not be required, unless they voluntarily agree to do so, to served beyond the limits of the Commonwealth and those of any territory under the authority of the Commonwealth.

Now, Mr. Chairman, coming back for a moment to the present law, the hon. gentle-

man says that we are doing something against the best interests of Canada, something that will prejudice Canada in the eyes of our sister colonies and of the mother country. Let me ask him to look at the present law and say, if he can, that under that law—taking not a single clause, but the law as it stands on the statute-book—the government of Canada can order out the militia to serve in South Africa or any other part of the world. He will not say so.

Mr. BARKER. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to answer his question? I do not say we can. But I ask, that being the case, why alter the law?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN—To make it absolutely clear, to make it as clear as it is upon the statute-book of the United Kingdom or upon the statute-book of other colonies. Why, what is the very title of this law? It is a law relating to the militia and defence. What is the very essence of militia? As I have said before, the underlying first principle of a militia organization—as any man who is familiar with the history of militia organization or military law knows—the prime object and the sole object of a militia is to defend the homes of the people. But the hon. gentleman went out of his way to find excuse for some quite unnecessary sneers at the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) with reference to the action which was taken in the time of the South African war. Well, I would recommend that hon. gentleman to read the debate which took place the other day in the imperial parliament, and especially to read what Mr. Arnold-Foster had to say as to the Prime Minister of Canada. He will find, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Arnold-Foster, the Secretary of State for War in the imperial government, said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Prime Minister of Canada, had rendered most distinguished service during the troubles in South Africa. It is a little too late—yes, and it is in exceedingly bad taste—for the hon. gentleman, at this time of day, to sneer at the Prime Minister of this country. In that connection, let me point to the fact that this country came to the assistance of the mother country in South Africa. And how? Under the existing militia law which the hon. gentleman is so afraid to have touched? Not at all, but by the voluntary offer of services from the people of this country. Does the hon. gentleman wish this country to embark upon the dangerous proceeding of preparing to take part in foreign wars? Is that the policy of the hon. gentleman? I think we have enough to do to attend to our own affairs. And, in my humble opinion we shall best serve the empire by making ourselves solid at home and preparing to defend our own soil. But the hon. gentleman says that we shall appear in bad form before other portions of the British empire.