

Exceptions.

1. Men who hold a certificate granted under this Act and in force, other than a certificate of exemption from combatant service only.

2. Members of His Majesty's regular or reserve, or auxiliary forces, as defined by the Army Act.

3. Members of the military forces raised by the Governments of any of His Majesty's other dominions or by the Government of India.

4. Men serving in the Royal Navy or in the Royal Marines, or in the Naval Service of Canada, and members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

5. Men who have since August 4, 1914 served in the military or naval forces of Great Britain or her allies in any theatre of actual war and have been honourably discharged therefrom.

6. Clergy, including members of any recognized order of an exclusively religious character, and ministers of all religious denominations existing in Canada at the date of the passing of this Act.

7. Those persons exempted from military service by Order in Council of August 13, 1873, and by Order in Council of December 6, 1898.

This last provision relates to certain communities of Mennonites and Doukhobors, who came into Canada on the faith of the Orders in Council which I have mentioned. Under these Orders in Council, the settlers referred to were not to be called upon to perform military service. It is absolutely clear that the faith of a country thus pledged must be kept; therefore this exception is introduced into the Bill.

I have endeavoured to give to the House as clearly and as succinctly as possible the main features of this Bill. There are one or two words that I should like to add before I sit down. The measure is not intended as provocative or punitive; it is put forward in good faith as the only means of insuring national safety in a great peril. It has been stated in the press that Canadians should not be called upon to fight beyond the limits of our territory. But ever since 1868 the law has recognized the obligation of Canadians to fight beyond the limits of our territory, and it recognizes that obligation to-day. I quote again section 69 of the Militia Act:

The Governor in Council may place the militia, or any part thereof, on active service anywhere in Canada, and also beyond Canada, for the defence thereof, at any time when it appears advisable so to do by reason of emergency.

It is declared in section 2 of the Militia Act that "emergency" means war, invasion, riot, or insurrection, real or apprehended. Two conditions, therefore, are necessary to the placing of the militia or any part thereof on active service beyond Canada. First, the men must be sent by reason of an emergency; secondly, they must be sent be-

yond Canada for the defence thereof. Let us consider whether or not those conditions are fulfilled by the present circumstances.

Will any hon. gentleman present deny that there is an emergency within the meaning of the statute? In the midst of the most terrific struggle ever known to history no one will seriously doubt the answer. There is more than an emergency; there is a cataclysm. The greatest of the nations that were once neutral—that great nation to the South of us—has at last been obliged to take up arms to defend its rights, to prevent the domination of militarism, the destruction of liberty and the enslavement of the world. Therefore, I take it for granted that there is no argument open as to the existence of an emergency. Not only is it an emergency; it is the greatest emergency, the greatest peril ever known, the greatest, I believe, that will ever be known in the history of this Dominion.

If it is conceded that there is an emergency, are we not fighting in France and Flanders for the defence of Canada? There are but few members of the House who, in speaking of the war, have not affirmed that truth. Let us look for a moment at Great Britain. We do not know what forces she has in France at the present moment, but we do know, from the returns already made public, that her armies have sustained very nearly a million casualties on the soil of France and Belgium. Is Great Britain fighting in France and in Belgium for the defence of her own territory? Yes, she is fighting to free the soil of France and Belgium from the unhallowed footsteps of the enemy, but she is no less truly fighting in defence of her own territory. I do not suppose that any one, looking at the circumstances as they have developed since the 4th day of August, 1914, could doubt that for one moment. What about Canada? When the Canadians on the 22nd day of April 1915, barred the path of the German to Calais, I say that they barred his path also to Halifax, Quebec, St. John and Montreal. From the North Sea to the borders of Switzerland there is a line nearly 500 miles in length, which is being pressed back towards the German frontier. Along that 500 mile line there is a strip of territory of varying width over which this devastating struggle has swayed to and fro. It was once a glorious country with smiling fields, happy villages and prosperous towns. To-day it is the abomination of desolation, a mass of shell-churned mud with no trace of road or street, house,