

take more machinery than we could provide. The Volunteer force was very well, and that was the most important part of the service. Time was the great object to the militia, and if they were called out for six days, he considered that it would be quite long enough. They should not be called out after the fifteenth of July, and he thought five days long enough time to have them out in one year.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION could not agree that it would be prudent to strike out the number "ten days." The law did not say that they should serve so long; it merely said that the time should not exceed "ten days." Perhaps they would not be called out for more than one day. We did not know how soon we might be in the midst of a war, and if such should ever happen, then it would be of the highest importance to be able to call out the militia a period for efficient drilling. If the Government considered time such a matter of importance to the agricultural portion of the people, perhaps there would be no need to call them out at all. If the law said they must be called out it would be quite different, but it did not; it only said that they might be called out for a period not to exceed ten days. In Nova Scotia the Government could call them out for a period of twenty-eight days.

Dr. JENKINS supposed the fault was his own in bringing the resolution forward; but certainly he failed to perceive the force of the arguments advanced, or of the reasons which had been given. If the amendment was not to be passed this year he would withdraw it.

Mr. HOWAT believed the number of days could not exceed ten, and the militia might not be called out once in the year. He felt disposed to compliment the other side of the House for the support they had given to this Bill.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD was under the impression, from what had fallen from the hon. member for Georgetown, that he considered the power to call out the militia was in the hands of the Government. His (Mr. Laird's) opinion had been that it was the prerogative of the Commander-in-Chief.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The power was in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief; but the Government for the time being was responsible for the action of the Commander-in-Chief when he called out the militia or volunteer forces.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON said it was admitted that we were under responsible government; but if the hon. member for Bedeque was right, the contrary was the case, and the late Government had been, in some instances, wrongly blamed. He could not see the force of the hon. member's remarks; but then he would excuse him, as no doubt he had not had sufficient time yet to gain experience in these matters; but under responsible government there were few acts for which the Commander-in-Chief was personally responsible. He received advice from his nine councillors, and they were held responsible for what he did. As to the ten days' drill, he would say in reply to the Leader of the Government, that it was entirely in the hands of the Government to regulate the time; they might make it one day or ten, but it could not exceed

ten. If this House, however, limited the time, and tied the Government down, why the Executive could not act at all. He would prefer leaving that part of the Bill as it was. He believed that the amendment of the hon. member contained a good principle, but being new might not suit here, and would therefore require more mature consideration. As the people were to be materially affected by it before it was adopted, they should have it brought to their notice through the press. Such was the course adopted in Great Britain, and by it the public mind was prepared for any change that was considered advisable to be introduced. It would be preferable to see it coming in with the consent of the people.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—Notwithstanding the light with which the hon. member for Murray Harbor had endeavored to surround his ideas, he had not, certainly, made the matter very clear; yet, if it was to be understood that the Government was to be responsible for the manner in which this service was to be performed, it was well to know it. But he (Hon. Mr. Laird) still thought that in these matters an independent power was placed in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION said that if the hon. member would refer to the British authorities, he would find that the power was in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief; but at the same time this power was placed in the hands of the Government as a part of the legitimate functions of responsible government; and the hon. member, so long as he remained in the Executive, would find that the Government would and must be held responsible for the acts of the Commander-in-Chief.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT said it was not pleasant for the Commander-in-Chief to have to call the people out to muster for so long a time as ten days in each year; he would, therefore, like to see the time reduced to five or six days, and would move that the time be reduced to five days.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION thought if the hon. member would but give the matter a little more consideration, he would arrive at quite a different conclusion. When in 1863 the drills for the volunteers were much shorter than they were now, there was a remonstrance against the shortness of the time. It would be seen also by the Bill of last year that they could be called out for ten days only, while in Nova Scotia they could be called out for twenty-eight days, and in New Brunswick and Canada the requirements were more stringent still. He thought a reproach might be cast upon our loyalty if we were to reduce the time.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL considered such an amendment would be a rash movement.

Dr. JENKINS thought if such an amendment was carried, it would be as well to pitch the Bill altogether. If such was made, many of the Volunteers would fall off.

Mr. P. SINCLAIR would be very willing to have any amendment that would benefit the movement, but he believed that if this one was carried it would destroy the affair altogether. As long as the country had