

## MILITIA ACT, 1904.

Bill (No. 5) respecting the Militia of Canada was read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.

On section 1.

Mr. CLARKE. Before proceeding with the consideration of this Bill, might I ask the hon. the Minister of Militia if it is intended to take this stage to-day? The hon. gentleman very kindly said he would supply the members of the House with sufficient copies of the Bill to enable them to meet the demands of their constituents for the Bill. So far we have not received these copies, and have not been able to supply the demands which have been made upon us. Until we have heard from those who are interested in this measure, we are not in position to pronounce upon it. The Bill was only brought down on Thursday, I think.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. I thought we were merely going to take up the resolutions to-day, I did not suppose we were going on with the Bill itself. For myself I have not been able to read the Bill even.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I think we might make some progress with the Bill to-day; but we will let any clauses stand that hon. gentlemen wish to see stand.

Mr. CLARKE. We do not know what clauses may be objected to.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It might be arranged in this way: There are several sections of the Bill which are exactly in the same form as the law stands at present; there may be others as to which there can be no possible question. There will no doubt be a third class which will elicit some controversy. Possibly we might go on with those sections that belong to the first two classes, and leave the others to stand until communication can be had with gentlemen throughout the country who are interested in this measure, and until hon. gentlemen on this side have had some opportunity of studying the provisions of the Bill.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Exactly, and in addition, the Bill will remain in committee, so that it will be quite possible to make changes at a subsequent meeting.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. I think it would facilitate matters very much if the minister would point out the changes in the Bill. For us to find them ourselves would entail considerable labour. In public and government Bills it is usually for the mover or the minister to point out the changes. If the hon. minister could do that without too much trouble, it would certainly lessen the labour of those who are not conversant with these changes.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am ready, as I proceed, to indicate the changes, and I have sent to the leader of the opposition

Mr. SPEAKER.

a carefully prepared statement. If it is necessary, of course these could all be reprinted, but I think it is scarcely necessary to do that.

Mr. McCREARY. What is the increased expenditure per year entailed upon the people of Canada by reason of this Bill going into force? What will it cost per year more than it costs at present to maintain the militia?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I think the increase in pay, which is by no means the whole expense for the militia, would probably amount to between 33 per cent and 50 per cent. For instance the pay of the permanent force now is 40 cents a day and under this Bill we provide a maximum of 75 cents per day, which, however, is only reached after 5 years service. So that, as far as the permanent force is concerned, the increase in pay would probably be not more than 33 per cent. As to the active militia, I think it would probably be rather more. The maximum is increased from 50 cents to \$1, subject to good conduct and to regulations which may be provided in that regard. But I should say that the increase altogether would amount to from \$150,000 to \$200,000 in the matter of pay for the militia, possibly \$250,000.

Mr. McCREARY. I think under these circumstances that a proposition to increase the burden on the people of Canada for maintaining the militia by \$250,000 a year, which sum may possibly be exceeded, should receive our serious consideration. For my part I never heard of the Bill until I came down here this session, and I do not think many people in the west have heard of the proposition to make this very great increase in the cost of the militia of Canada. I submit to the Minister of Militia that he should let the Bill stand before the members for at least two weeks to enable them thoroughly to understand it and to consult their constituents. The expenditure is so large that the Bill should not be sprung upon the House at a moment's notice. I am not going to say that I shall oppose the Bill, but I would have serious thoughts of doing so if it is going to involve so great an increase in the expenditure. Is there any necessity for it? Have the people made a demand for it? For my part, I would like to see the Bill stand for two or three weeks in order to give us ample time to study it.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. With reference to what my hon. friend (Mr. McCreary) says, it is quite evident that he could not have been in the House during the last two or three sessions, when this important question was under discussion, or he would have heard from every side of the House a demand made upon me and upon the government to increase the pay of the militia. I have no objection to my hon. friend asking the opinion of his con-