

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—It was not the Bill to which he referred, but the calling out of the Militia.

Mr. BRECKEN.—Then let it be the Militia and not the Bill and what followed? Simply that the Bill was brought in to prop up this "tom-foolery." Such dread of results was unworthy of the hon. Leader of the Government. Why did he not come forward in his strength as in former days, and take the Bill upon his shoulders and stand or fall by it. He (Mr. B.) really felt for the hon. Attorney General in the trying position in which he was placed, deserted as he was by his colleagues, but he must endure it, and stand by the measure which he had introduced.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD observed that the hon. member for Charlottetown seemed to take great delight in applying the term "composite" to the Government. He (Mr. L.) lately read in the newspapers of a new steamer which had arrived here that was constructed on the "composite" principle and classed for 14 years. If the Government of which he was a member stood for 14 years he believed he would be tired of it. The hon. Attorney General when he introduced the Bill had distinctly stated that he was not prepared to support all the clauses it contained. It was well known that the Act which it was intended to amend was introduced last session, and we should now give those same gentlemen who brought forward the measure at first an opportunity to rectify their defective legislation.

Mr. BRECKEN doubted whether the composite Government would hold together for fourteen years, as Mr. Laird had hinted. He thought that if they had some heads of departments to deal with, and the Leader of the Government were to treat a Bill as this one had been, the members of the Executive Council would soon be brought to book. Was it possible that a question of this nature could be so treated? That a Bill which took 2500 men from their customary employments a part of their time—that summoned every person from 16 to 40 years of age to attend drill—should be pronounced by the hon. Leader of the Government a piece of "tom-foolery?" Why then was it brought in? He did hope that the measure would turn out to be something better than the name it had received, and that it would obtain the support of the Government. Let them take hold of it now. He did not wish to see the days and scenes of the past revived. He did not desire to see what took place when poor Clark was brought to task. He did not ask for anything of the kind. It would be quite contrary to his wishes; but he thought the Government should take hold of the measure.

Dr. JENKINS believed the clause before the House related to the exemption of Volunteers from statute labor, and he was prepared to support it. When men were called out against their will, they never entered into the spirit of the drill. But if they went into it cheerfully, they would become better soldiers. He held in his hand a petition from the Firemen of Charlottetown, praying for like exemption.

Mr. HOWAT would give his support to the amendment. The hon. Attorney General seemed to complain that we would not exempt the Volunteers from burdens imposed upon other people. He was going to

draw the Volunteers into the service with kindness. Then if one of these same Volunteers wished to be made a Constable, there was the fact of his being a Volunteer to exclude him from that appointment, or any other public duty which others had to bear? Some hon. members referred to him as the third member for Charlottetown; but certain men in the city seemed to claim more privileges than they were entitled to. He hoped to see the day when persons from the country would exercise more power in this House than they did now.

Hon LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION asked if the hon. member meant Mr. Callbeck?

Mr. HOWAT meant the hon. Leader of the Opposition among the rest. He hoped, however, to see the time when men from the country would do their duty, and not allow means to be used to force Confederation upon the people.

Hon LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION wished we were into Confederation.

Mr. HOWAT said we were not to be frightened, or bribed into it, which he believed was attempted to be done. Nor were we going to put military service upon the people until they were aware of it.

Mr. PROWSE remarked that no doubt the Home Government wished us to go into Confederation, and would like to see the whole military force of the Colonies put together. If we wished to avoid this, we would have to give due attention to our military defences. He did not see how we could treat this Bill lightly, in the face of the telegram which he had just taken from the Reporter's desk.—"Earl Derby says the Government will not make public the real history of the recent Fenian uprising, on account of apprehended trouble with certain Foreign Governments which are involved in the plot." When hon. members considered this announcement, he did not think they would say that it was a matter of indifference whether we gave attention or not to military preparations. He believed that if trouble should arise, the Home Government would justly compel us to go into Confederation from a military necessity, if in these matters we did not do our duty. He would not give the Volunteers more privileges than the Militia. He understood that the Bill was similar to the Act in operation in Nova Scotia, and if they, who were going into Confederation, gave such attention to these duties, surely we who were not going into it, should be prepared to keep ourselves out of trouble. He would heartily support the Bill.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT thought that if the Volunteers were to throw up their arms every time they took offence at something, there was not much dependence to be placed in them. He would like them to know more about the duty they owed to their superior officers. He did not hesitate to say again that in so far as the present manner of calling out the Militia was concerned, it was nothing but a piece of "tomfoolery." When called out and put through the drill, what was the result? A few might have learned to wheel a little better than the others, but the bulk of them paid very little attention to the drill, and were none the better qualified for the discharge of military duties; and he would still say that it was wrong to be calling out the Militia for ten or fifteen days, when the people could ill afford to