

Act for clause 19. I move the substitution of section 15, which is as follows :

No officer or man of an active militia corps raised and maintained by voluntary enlistment shall be permitted to retire therefrom in time of peace without giving to his commanding officer six months' notice of his intention so to do.

The latter part of clause 19 corresponds, but of course the two first lines do not correspond.

The motion was agreed to.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Has the hon. gentleman called the attention of the militia authorities to the other clause to which we took very serious objection? That is the taking from the commanding officers the right to appoint their own non-commissioned officers?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There are some clauses as to which I have made notes here, and I shall take the earliest opportunity to see the minister about them. In the short time I have had at my disposal, I have had no opportunity to see him.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—We cannot deal with it then this session?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Not in the short time at our disposal.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I should be glad to see that change, because I think it would be in the interest of the service.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I shall bring it to the notice of the minister and possibly something may be done.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG, from the committee, reported the Bill with amendments, which were concurred in.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved that the Bill be read the third time.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—I have not given up my amendments. I have confidence that they are good, and time will prove that they are. I want to amend clause 82 by adding after paragraph B the following:—

If the place where such riot or disturbance occurs or is anticipated is in a port or harbour under the control of the government or of a harbour commission, the requisition shall also be signed by the chairman of the harbour commission or by the officer in charge of the port.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

Besides being signed by the mayor and the persons mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b), the requisition shall have to be signed by the chairman of the harbour commissioners, or by the officer in charge of the port. I offer this amendment, because I intend to move another amendment to provide that when a riot takes place in a harbour or port under the jurisdiction of the government or of the harbour commission, that the municipality is not bound to obtain the services of the militia. I think it is proper to give a guarantee to the government that the militia will not be called out indiscriminately under circumstances where there would be no good reason to call them out; and then I want to give to the government a certain guarantee that before acting the requisition will have to be signed by the persons named in paragraphs (a) and (b), and also by the chairman of the harbour commission, or by the officer in charge of the port when not administered by a harbour commission, but which is under the jurisdiction and direct control of the government. I want to say once for all, that this amendment will apply not only to Montreal and Quebec, as some hon. gentlemen have insinuated, but to all the ports and harbours of Canada. There is a clause in the statutes which perhaps I ought to read, which provides that by Order in Council the government has a right to declare that a port in any part of Canada shall be considered a port under the control of the government. I have here a book showing that there are between 60 and 75 ports in the same position or worse than Montreal, because I am sure there are perhaps 50 of them which are less able than Montreal to pay the expenses connected with the calling out of the militia in case of riot and disturbance. And hon. gentlemen must not forget that the amendment applies to places where the municipality has no control; that it applies to ports and harbours which, under the constitution, and under special statutes, are under the direct control of the government or of a harbour commission, which amounts to the same thing, because when a port or harbour is under the jurisdiction or control of a harbour commission it means the government. Then, when a riot takes place in such a harbour, it takes place on wharfs