

country the government, I suppose under a patronage list. Will they be selected by Rear Admiral Kingsmill so that they will be taken irrespective of politics, the best men possible?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If my hon. friend will join the service, we will be glad to take him as a reserve man. He cannot be forced, no one will be forced, and I dare say my hon. friend might join himself.

Mr. J. D. REID. The Prime Minister knows that only a limited number are taken, only about 400 men. There will be many more applicants than can be taken and I have no doubt influence will be used to get men into the service. In any militia force there should be a system by which there would be no possible chance of politics creeping in. I feel that this is a case in which the recommendation of party politicians should not be considered.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It is a very wise suggestion.

Mr. J. D. REID. I hope the minister will act on it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. As I understand the men volunteer to serve in this navy, but after they have volunteered they are in the same category as men who have enlisted for an indefinite time in the British navy.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No, they enlist for a certain period.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. 12 years is the period in the British navy, I understand. Does the Prime Minister not think, in view of the fact that we are establishing this navy and that it is necessary for us possibly to have a larger number of men than the enlisted men, he should seriously consider the methods adopted in other countries to acquire that large number of men? Our navy is small, they are virtually training ships. In the German navy, for instance, they have three categories, the active or standing navy, composed chiefly of petty officers and officers, the naval militia, in which men serve three years in the navy and automatically go on the reserve, and then there are those men who will volunteer to serve in the navy in the same way as the volunteers in the militia. Suppose it is impossible to get men to serve in the navy, for instance to replace deserters in time of war, what steps will the government take to get men? Will any clause be inserted to permit of forcible enlistment or balloting as is provided for in the Militia Act?

Mr. J. D. REID.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That balloting provision of the Militia Act is never exercised except in time of war. I suppose it never would be used.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. The minister knows it has been exercised in the militia of Great Britain, in fact it was exercised here in the war of 1812. It is within the realm of possibility and in making legislation of this kind it is useless to close our eyes and make a sham law, we should make a law that will be of real use in time of trouble. The time to pass such legislation is in time of peace.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend, I am sorry to say, can never be a moderate man. He goes from one extreme to the other. At the outset he was very much opposed to this Bill, and now he wants to go in for compulsion. I have to say to him that we do not propose anything of the kind, we do not propose to put any compulsion in this Bill. We take our chances on that, and I really believe that this Act will be so popular that we will not have to use compulsion to bring people in but to keep them out.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. I do not see why one section of the armed forces should be dealt with differently than with any other, and so I would suggest that the Prime Minister withdraw the compulsory balloting clauses from the Militia Act. Every man who wears the uniform in this country realizes that he is liable to service and every young man realizes that he is bound. Why should there be any exception in the case of the navy?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My hon. friend says we should remove the compulsory clauses from the Militia Act. Considering that for 100 years there has been no compulsory balloting in this country we shall not remove it, we shall let it lie there as a dormant section of the Act not to be called on for another 100 years.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. The Prime Minister should be logical. He says he never expects this fleet to fight. Then if he does put that clause in what harm can it do?

On section 23, target practice.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. I notice that rifle ranges are to be used for this naval service. Is this navy, amongst its many wonderful conditions, going to be placed on wheels so that it can go ashore and practice?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Is my hon. friend serious or simply joking?

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. I am very serious. The right hon. gentleman and the Minister