

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: There is not the slightest doubt about it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Will my honourable friend accept an explanation? The Government will not come to Parliament, because they will by the legislation we are passing be clothed with authority to develop the defence of Canada as they see fit, after consultation with Great Britain.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: There is no cause for worry. It is merely the Government's deviousness about the whole business which has produced this state of affairs. These men, as everybody knows, will be the expeditionary force. They are being organized and trained, and just so soon as Parliament is out of the way they will be called our expeditionary force. Therefore those who are worrying about their military status will find every satisfaction. They will be described as the expeditionary force, and nobody will be any worse off except the unfortunate militia units which are not ear-marked for this purpose. These will find themselves without recruits, and their men drifting off into the expeditionary force, because of this outstanding psychological fact, which I referred to this afternoon as something like Gresham's Law. As bad money drives out good, so the recruitment of an expeditionary force destroys the local Militia, for the real fighting men want to be in a force that is going on active service, and a certain odium attaches to the poor old stay-at-home Militia. That is what is worrying the honourable gentleman from Vancouver. If the expeditionary force is really built up to something worth while, we can get along without the Militia for local defence. The organization and training of a couple of hundred thousand men for an expeditionary force of four or five divisions will always ensure our having a sufficient number of men for internal security and coast defence. This will work out all right. But the method of filling the expeditionary force is something altogether different, and if my honourable friend will allow me to make the speech which I have been threatening to make, but which so far he has prevented me from making, I will go fully into the matter either to-night or to-morrow morning.

Some Hon. SENATORS: To-morrow morning.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Certain Montreal militia units have already chosen their officers in case an expeditionary force is to be created. They have their organization pretty well ready.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: Do I understand the honourable leader of the House to say that after Parliament prorogues the Government will have power to call for volunteers and send an expeditionary force overseas?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes, if necessary.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: Honourable members, of course I am in favour of the second reading of this Bill. I rise only to say one thing. So far as an expeditionary force is concerned, I hope the Government will not remain too long in No Man's Land. The roar that will go up throughout this country if they do will be, I think, far beyond what they conceive. Men are giving up good positions. They are not giving them up to hang around the banks of canals or to loaf around barracks. They are giving them up to undergo training so they may do a job for their country, and the Government have little notion of what will happen unless the opportunity to do that job is kept open, the direction pointed and the work advanced. There is no need for argument. Conditions will dictate everybody's course. The steady, inexorable march of events will turn the Government in the right direction. They cannot possibly resist. We do not need to plead at all. All will be brought about as one thing after another will crash, crash, crash. I just ask the Government to be alive and get going. That is what the country demands.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would tell my right honourable friend that the men at the helm to-day have a full sense of their responsibility—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not doubt it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: —and will act with courage. They will not be swayed by the appeals coming from members of the community who are extremely zealous, and whose zeal I respect. They are in contact with the development of the situation as seen from London. Surely my right honourable friend will trust the Government to do the right thing at the proper time.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not doubt that, and have not the slightest question in my mind as to the attitude of the British Government, but nobody can tell me they are not going to welcome help at the very centre and crucial point of the struggle.

I have noticed a little tendency to dwell on what happened in 1914. No doubt errors were made then, in the rush of events. I