

ly appears to be a limitation of the previous law. Let us have this provision for the summoning of parliament, let us insist on having the absolute control of our own purse and our own men, but if the people and the government wish in an emergency—and in an emergency everything turns on immediate action—let us be free if the government care to assume the responsibility of sending the forces of Canada outside of Canada, whether for the defence of Canada or of the empire outside of Canada.

Mr. SPROULE. After this Bill passes could the volunteers go to any part of the British empire?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Just the same as before.

Mr. SPROULE. What portion of the Bill gives them the right?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The section you are considering.

Mr. GOURLEY. Citizens of the United States could enlist in the same way to defend the British empire.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I will answer my hon. friend. The troops we sent to South Africa were not sent under the militia law at all. They were sent under a special arrangement; they went as volunteers. The same thing could be done at any time. It certainly would not be done under the militia law, either as it was or as we propose to make it, because there is no essential difference. Notwithstanding the fact that my hon. friend from Colchester questions my possession of common sense, I still believe that the Act as we propose it is essentially the same in that respect as it was before, the object being to make clear the actual intention. Now, I do not propose to be drawn into the heroics that have been indulged in by my hon. friend from East York (Mr. Maclean) and my hon. friend from Colchester (Mr. Gourley) except perhaps to make this one observation. I do not think there is any necessity for the people of Canada to advertise their loyalty to the British empire by putting it on the statute-book in any special form. The people of the British empire, and the people of the world at large, so far as they are interested in Canada, know full well what the loyalty of Canada is and what it means; and it is appreciated in the proper quarter. It suits our hon. friends opposite on certain occasions to shout about their loyalty. It has suited them sometimes in the past, and I regret to say that they are engaged in the same enterprise now, if not in this House, outside of it, of endeavouring to cast some doubt upon the loyalty of the people who sit on this side of the House. I do not think it is necessary to go into that subject. I think the experience of the last few years has proved

Mr. MACLEAN.

that there is no difference between the political parties in Canada as to their loyalty to Canada or their loyalty to the British empire. The very fundamental idea of a militia force always has been, and is now, home defence. In every portion of the British empire, without any exception, the same principle is laid down which is found in the Bill before the House—that the militia of that particular part of the British empire, including the British islands themselves, shall be limited in their service to the particular part of the empire in which they live. I have taken the trouble to examine the old militia laws of the different provinces which made up the Dominion of Canada, and in every one of those provinces we find the same limitation. It has always existed. Under these circumstances it is absurd to talk about service abroad.

Mr. GOURLEY. Why?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Because we are not fitted for service abroad without a special provision to that end; and when the time comes, should it unfortunately come again, then parliament, under the provisions of the Bill we are proposing, will be immediately convened. In that respect this Bill is much more in the interest of service abroad, if we choose to give it; because parliament will be immediately convened, and such steps will be taken as may be thought necessary and desirable by parliament towards the defence of the empire, should Canada desire to engage in that defence beyond the borders of Canada. The whole point is that a militia force is a force for home defence. The militia law of Great Britain expressly provides the limitation that the militia shall not serve beyond the United Kingdom. So it seems to me that our Bill meets the requirements which are met by similar legislation in every other part of the British empire. In addition to the authority we had in the past, we are now arranging that parliament shall automatically meet within fifteen days after any emergency that may arise, when parliament can take such steps, with the guidance of the government of the day, or independent of the government of the day, as it sees fit, for the support of the empire in any part of the world.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The minister has evidently declined to accept the amendment of the hon. member for East York, that the words 'for the defence thereof' be omitted. The old Act was quite different from this Bill. It read:

Her Majesty may call out the militia, or any part thereof, for active service, either within or without Canada, at any time when it appears advisable so to do, by reason of war, invasion, or insurrection, or danger of any of them.

The new law simply reads: 'The Governor in Council'—not His Majesty, you will observe: