

General trusted to getting the measure through by side votes. The Government should be ashamed of themselves for acting thus. He had, when the Bill was introduced, promised to give it his support, thinking it a Government measure. He had, however, been undeceived by the action of the hon. member for Badeque, and the speech of the hon. Leader of the Government, and would, therefore, as Leader of the Opposition, wash his hands of it. He had an important amendment which he had intended moving, but would now trouble himself no more with it. He would allow the hon. Attorney General to do the best he could with this Government bastard Bill, for he could term it nothing else. If hon. members in the Government were not prepared to support their own measures, they should vacate their seats in the Council. We were unworthy of the privileges we enjoyed under the British Government if we were unwilling to spend a small portion of our revenue and our time in order that we might be trained to protect ourselves.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—The Bill had not been brought in as a Government measure. It had been handed in so late that, in order that it might not be lost entirely, it had to be introduced without having been properly considered. Had it been a Government measure it would have been very different. The present Government, unlike the late one, did not shrink from responsibility. The late Government never had, during their eight years of office, a government measure that they were willing to stand or fall by. In the Militia Bill of last year they had the support of the minority. He felt that he was not bound to support the Bill in its entirety. He would still maintain that it was not necessary to call men out to drill for ten or twelve days during the summer when there was no actual need. He would be very sorry that any militia officer should have the power of sending a man to jail without a hearing, and keeping him there for five days. It was too arbitrary a power to give any man.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL remarked that if the Bill advanced any new principle, or did away with any old one, the objections of the hon. Leader of the Opposition might have some weight. A militia bill was a trifling measure when compared with the question of Confederation, and yet the late Government did not make the latter a Government measure. He thought it the duty of every Colony to prepare itself for its own defence so far as in its power. As regarded the proper number of days for annual drill he was not prepared to express a positive opinion. The real subject before the committee was the exempting, and this should be the subject discussed. Other matters should have been introduced at the second reading of the Bill rather than in Committee.

Hon. Mr LAIRD moved in amendment to the clause under consideration, that the Bill should be printed for public information, and allowed to lie over till next year. His view of the case was that such great preparation for war, as was advocated by some hon. members, was rather a step back towards barbarism than an advance in the right direction. He was somewhat amused to hear the hon. leader of the Opposition promising his assistance to perfect the Bill; when probably a few months afterwards he would be tearing

the very amendments it contained to pieces. He (Mr. L.) thought that before the people were bound by such restrictions as this Bill proposed they should be made aware of what they were required to submit to. It was on this ground that he had moved the Bill should be published.

Hon. Mr. Davies thought if the Bill was to go into force as it stood, it would be difficult at times to find workmen to carry on the labors of the field or the workshop. People had not time in this country to do military service in the summer season. After all the training which had been gone through here last year, he questioned whether the companies called out were much more efficient than those of former years. Look at the Crimean War; the raw recruits brought into the field then very soon did duty as well as the old soldiers; and he believed the Garibaldians had accomplished more in less time than any trained troops that were ever called into action. He had no objections to see the Volunteer and Militia force kept up, but it could not be done to such an extent as the Bill contemplated. We might have two or three companies of Volunteers in Charlottetown, one in Georgetown, and one in Summerside; but the system could not be carried out all the country over.

Mr. BRECKEN sympathized with the hon. Attorney General in regard to the treatment which the Bill was receiving at the hands of his friends. The hon. Leader of the Government had used the word "tomfoolery" in connection with the Bill, and other members of the Administration had attempted to burke it altogether. All this, he supposed, resulted from the "composite" character of the Government—he thought it would crop out somewhere. He did not know who was the father of the Bill, but had heard that the Commander-in-chief had interested himself in the matter. He suspected it was intended to carry out his desires, if not those of the Government.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD would like to hear the hon. member's authority for saying it was brought forward by the chief of the Government.

Mr. BRECKEN.—Well, of course it was not exactly brought forward by him; but there could be little doubt that he was anxious it should be passed. His Excellency had taken a great deal of interest in the Volunteer movement, and did not seem to receive many thanks for his pains. In regard to the recent trouble among the Volunteers, he would say that he hoped the officer referred to, who had perhaps taken a false step, would be reinstated in his former position. He (Mr. B.) maintained that the Leader of the Government should have introduced the Bill and stood or fallen by it. In Canada a few years ago, a Militia Bill was brought forward by the premier of that Province, and though it was not a new measure, his government was defeated thereon, and a change of ministry took place. But our "composite" Government would not endanger their position by a Militia Bill; they did not agree among themselves, yet they managed to stick together, and there was something in this from which he wished the Conservative party to take a lesson. (Laughter.) He believed, that the Bill before the Committee was introduced at the special request of the Lieut. Governor, and here in this debate the Leader of the Government called it "tomfoolery."