

hon. friend the leader of the opposition suggested that if we would permit the law to remain exactly as it is, its effect would be precisely the same as it would be under the amendment proposed. I believe my hon. friend is right and that the difference is only in form and in words; and that being the case, it is a pity we should any longer protract the debate. I would ask my hon. colleague the Minister of Militia to go on with the other clauses, reserving this, and see if some other form cannot be adopted which will carry out equally well what we all desire.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think that that is a very good suggestion. For my part I am convinced that it is after all a question of what determination the executive will come to. If they come to any particular determination, they can be only checked by parliament no matter which form of words you adopt. As the Minister of Militia himself has said, I think in an earlier part of this discussion, the most effective way to defend Canada might be to strike somewhere outside of Canada, and the government can always take that view, for which of course there would be responsibility to parliament. For that reason, I thought there was no need to make any change in the words of the old law, because after all the change proposed is only in the words and not in the practical effect of the section. I think therefore the suggestion of my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) is a good one. Might I be permitted also to bring to the attention of the Minister of Militia, because he seems to rely upon the English practice in this regard, the section he placed in my hands just now, to be found in the manual of military law issued by the War Office in 1899. On page 812 there is a provision that the militia, if they see fit, may volunteer for service out of Great Britain and His Majesty may accept their services. Would it be out of place—I am putting this forward as a mere suggestion—for us to adopt some legislation here to provide that our militia may, if they see fit, volunteer for service out of Canada and the Governor in Council may, if he sees fit, accept their services? I would qualify that by the same provision with regard to parliament which we have already adopted. If we are to follow the English system in the one case, does not the minister think it would be proper to follow it in the other? There would be more reason to follow that course in this country. In Great Britain they have a standing army and we have not. Our whole defence is in the militia. And if there be reason for this in the United Kingdom, is there not more reason in this country?

Mr. FIELDING. The suggestion is worthy of consideration. There is just this difference possibly that when the English

militia volunteer and go abroad, they would of course be subject to the English militia Act which is made in harmony with the British Army Act. It would be inconvenient, if we sent our militia from Canada for service abroad, to attempt to operate them under the Canadian military law. It would be perhaps necessary that they should come under the operation of the British army regulations rather than the Canadian Act.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is a mere matter of detail. The suggestion is one I offer for consideration and I cannot say that I am absolutely wedded to it. I was led to make the suggestion by having placed before me this particular provision, which restricts the sending of militia out of the United Kingdom.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I was about to say that I think there would be considerable difficulty in carrying out such a provision. Under existing conditions, our militia, if sent on service abroad, would have to be under the British army. No other service abroad would be recognized. We found no difficulty whatever, during the time of the South African war, in organizing about eight thousand men in Canada for service in South Africa, by making a special contract with them and enlisting them at once for service abroad in the imperial army. There can be no difficulty in the future. It has always been open to the young men of Canada to serve abroad, and we can at any time repeat exactly the method that was adopted in 1899 and 1900.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Probably the minister is quite right as to that. Possibly the only difference would be that you could send the militia in units or regiments, as they are now organized, and perhaps that is not a very important thing. But one difficulty the hon. gentleman speaks of does not seem to exist. Our militia, when called out for active service within Canada or out of Canada are subject to the King's regulations. Therefore, if you called them out and sent them abroad, they would be subject to the same discipline and control as soldiers in the British army.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. In proposing that the Canadian parliament should be called within a reasonable time as the English parliament is called within ten days, I thought that was all the safeguard that was required. I have already expressed my views of these words, 'for the defence thereof.' I think they are aggravating, and I believe they were put in, not with that intention possibly, but at the instance of certain gentlemen who had made it their boast at the time the troops went to South Africa that it would never occur again. Our friend from British Columbia said that a certain portion of the community had been classed