

Mr. RALPH SMITH. The fish are being caught by the Americans now, and whatever injury is being done, it is done to their advantage. If it is a good thing for them to catch fish by traps, it will not be a bad thing for us to catch fish by traps. If a remedy is sought to this destructive method of fishing, I think it will be brought about more quickly by adopting the same system.

At one o'clock, committee took recess.

Committee resumed at Three o'clock.

Progress reported.

THE MILITIA ACT.

Hon. Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister of Militia and Defence) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 5) to amend the Militia Act.

Hon. DAVID TISDALE. Before the motion is adopted I wish to move the amendment of which I have given notice. I may say that were it not for the importance of this measure and especially of the very drastic alterations introduced into the Bill by the minister, I would not detain the House at this time with any lengthened remarks. In order to bring the matter clearly before the House, and to permit of its being discussed without going beyond the record I shall read the amendment which I am about to propose which sets forth not only the alterations I propose but also the clauses in the Bill which I wish to strike out or amend. The motion reads as follows:—

That the said Bill be not read a third time, but that it be referred back to the committee of the whole House with instructions to the committee to strike out section 7 of the said Act, which reads as follows:—

7. The Governor in Council may appoint a militia council to advise the minister on all matters relating to the militia, which are referred to the council by the minister. The composition, procedure and powers of the council shall be as prescribed.

And also to strike out section 30 of the said Act, which reads as follows:—

Section 30. There may be appointed an officer who shall hold rank not below that of a colonel in the militia or in His Majesty's regular army, who may be, subject to the regulations and under the direction of the minister, charged with the military command of the militia, and such officer shall have the rank of major-general in the militia, and shall be paid at such rate, not exceeding \$6,000 per annum, as is prescribed; and substitute therefor the following:—

30. There shall be appointed an officer who holds the rank of colonel or rank superior thereto, in His Majesty's regular army, who shall be charged, under the orders of His Majesty, with the military command and discipline of the militia, and who, while he holds such appointment, shall have the rank of major-general in the militia, and shall be paid a salary at the rate of \$4,000 per annum, and any addition thereto in lieu of allowan-

Mr. SPOULE.

ces, such sum, not exceeding \$2,000 per annum, as is determined by the Governor in Council.

And also to strike out section 31 of the said Act, which reads as follows:—

31. There may be appointed an officer who shall hold rank not below that of colonel in the militia or in His Majesty's regular army, who may be, subject to the regulations and under the direction of the minister, charged with the military inspection of the militia, and such officer shall be paid at such rate, not exceeding \$6,000 per annum, as is prescribed.

And also to strike out section 32 of the said Act, which reads as follows:—

32. The duties and authority of each of the officers respectively referred to in the two next preceding sections shall be defined by the Governor in Council.

And substitute therefor the following:—

32. The Governor in Council shall from time to time make such orders as are necessary respecting the duties to be performed by the officer commanding the militia, by the adjutant general, by the quartermaster general and by the officers of the militia generally.

Also to strike out section 36 of the said Act, which reads as follows:—

36. The Governor in Council may establish a general staff, headquarters staff, and district staff, and may appoint a chief of the general staff and such officers to the respective staffs as are deemed necessary, and shall define their duties and authority; and substitute therefor the following:—

36. His Majesty may appoint staff officers of the militia with such rank as from time to time is found requisite or necessary for the efficiency of the militia service, and such staff officers shall have such rank and authority in the militia as are held relatively in His Majesty's service, and their duties shall be such as are, from time to time, prescribed, with power to the committee to make such other alterations, if any, as shall be necessary to bring the Act in accord with the above changes.

I shall now briefly explain the nature of the amendments, and their application to these sections.

Section 7 which deals with formation of a militia council is a new section. I am asking to repeal that absolutely.

Section 30 is a new section, which differs from the corresponding section in the existing law in two respects. The new section provides that it shall be optional with the government whether such an officer is appointed or not, and secondly it provides that the officer shall act not only subject to the regulations, but 'under the direction of the minister.' Now these are both significant changes, and I shall remark on their nature and application later.

Section 31 provides for the appointment of an inspecting officer to the militia. As my motion will, if accepted, restore the General Officer Commanding as under the existing law, I move to strike that out, believing that the general officer will be able to perform the inspection as well as his other duties as he has done in the past. Thus we will save the expenditure of \$6,000 a year,