

always been our peace-time force. It formed the nucleus of our overseas force. That was the situation in the last war. But it would appear now that this field force is going to be the nucleus of our overseas force, if we send one. If that be so, it is easy to understand that members of the Militia who wish to get overseas would seek transfer to the field force. But it seems to me that if this field force is to be the only nucleus of overseas forces, we shall not be making the best use of the men who for years have devoted themselves to the Militia and who to-day make up what are perhaps our most highly qualified units. It does seem to me there should be one organization, the overseas force, which would include the best men available. As it appears now, there is a division between the field force and the Militia.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I do not see it in that way. Of course, I am governed by the information given to me. If as a matter of Government policy it is decided to send an expeditionary force overseas, the present Canadian active service force would be the nucleus of such an overseas contingent. I would draw my honourable friend's attention to the fact that in the last war the Canadian active service force was the nucleus of such a contingent. That would, I believe, cover all the activities of our militia organization.

Hon. Mr. McRAE: Quite so; but I understood—maybe I was in error—that the field force was the nucleus of the overseas force.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: What is the meaning of "nucleus"? In fact there is no nucleus. It simply means that this body which is being formed will be a source from which may be drawn all men who wish to go overseas.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I understand there are a certain number of militia districts, each with its regiment. These regiments are being brought up to full strength. I take it for granted that through them men will be given the privilege of enlisting in any expeditionary force.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Exactly.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Outside volunteers may be appealed to if there is not a full complement. The Department has decided to use its own organization, and authority will not be given to any person to raise a regiment, as was done in the last war. I saw a number of regiments so raised in the city of Montreal. Very soon there will be some 40,000 men representing the military strength of Canada. I should think that if it is decided to organize an expeditionary force an appeal will be made

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to those men to re-enlist for service outside of Canada. That is the information I have received.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Briefly, the situation, as I understand it, is this. In the first place, the Government have not reached any decision whatever in regard to sending an expeditionary force overseas?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: None; but after conferring with—

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I quite understand that it is a matter of consultation. But at the present time no decision at all has been reached as to sending an expeditionary force overseas?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Absolutely none.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Men enlisted at the present time are enlisted only for service in Canada: that is correct also?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That is correct.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: If an expeditionary force is to be created later on, then a request will be made to those who are serving in Canada to join such expeditionary force, if they wish to do so?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Absolutely.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I think the key of this mystery is to be found in the deviousness and sinuosity of Government policy. The Prime Minister has, during the last two or three years, been declaring that Parliament must decide. Events began to crowd him, and it became obvious that he must get a little ahead of Parliament's decision. So he does not want to say there will be an expeditionary force, Parliament not having yet decided it is necessary. Consequently we have this curious method of procedure to which my honourable friend from Vancouver (Hon. Mr. McRae) draws attention, and which the honourable gentleman from Saltcoats (Hon. Mr. Calder) is worried about, and the honourable leader himself (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) is unable to explain. It was necessary to get rid of our peace-time Militia. The Government selected a certain number of militia units and ear-marked them to be mobilized and brought up to war strength, taken into quarters, and trained. There is the expeditionary force, raised in the manner described; that is to say, to be ready when the time comes. But do not use the term "expeditionary force," for Parliament has not yet decided on this point.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No.