

the constituted authorities that are answerable for their actions and will have to pay heavy bills. We have had complaints all round for the last two or three years of the heavy bills for calling out the militia needlessly. So I am convinced we should not enlarge the number of parties who might have the power to call out the militia, and that, with the names in the Bill, we are sure we have men with a greater sense of responsibility, and it would be dangerous to extend it to three justices of the peace.

Hon. Mr. DeBOUCHERVILLE — The hon. gentleman from de Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) took it upon himself, and I thank him very much for doing so, to answer a question I put to the leader of the House.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I have to apologize to the hon. gentleman.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—That is his usual course.

Hon. Mr. DeBOUCHERVILLE—I suppose the government will not endorse everything he says. His answer was that a riot taking place at such a distance, would render it difficult to get the militia there. Does the hon. gentleman believe that in case there was a riot of the men working on the National Transcontinental Railway, and they were destroying the railway plant, that they should not be interfered with because it would take two or three days to inform the commander of the militia to send the troops to quell the riot, and that it would take two or three days longer to get them there? Should the government allow rioting and destruction of property to go on? The hon. member shakes his head. I suppose he withdraws what he said. I have asked the question not in any spirit of opposition. I shall be very glad if the government think there is nothing very serious involved in my question; if they do think such a difficulty might arise, would it not be better for them to make provision to meet it? I am ready to concede that they want to do what is right. Should there not be some means provided, under such circumstances, where a judge or reeve or magistrate could not be found, to call out the militia?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman knows that troops are not available in Canada at all the corners of concession lines.

Sometimes they are three or four hundred miles away from the scene, and, therefore, it may take some time to get troops to the scene of a riot, so I think there will be ample time to induce some municipal authority to act. It is exceedingly difficult to frame a Bill to meet all contingencies that may arise in a country like Canada. This clause has been framed to try to meet all possible cases. At the same time one cannot allow the power to be too readily exercised. The people would not approve of it. There are some justices that have not very level heads. There are men who, in ordinary conditions, have good sense but who lose their heads in times of excitement, and therefore it would not be safe to trust it to one or even two justices. The precaution here is one that is really essential. Wherever a judge is available, he, having a calm judicial mind, is not likely to be carried away by any improper motive or fear and would not too hastily act. I think the alternatives that we have mentioned in this Bill will not arise. In fact I did not think it was necessary to insert any of them, and after a conference with some gentlemen who had given it a great deal of thought, they considered that we were creating possible contingencies that are not likely to arise, because the judges all over the country are available.

Hon. Mr. DeBOUCHERVILLE—But if there are no judges to be found?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There are always judges in the districts. They may be a long way off. There is no doubt about that, but, at the same time, the troops are a long way off, and the person who would get the judge would hand the papers over to the district officer commanding, so that I think that element may be discarded. Wherever you have troops, you have some judicial authority who can be called upon to act, because the troops that would be called out would be those scattered in cities and towns. You would scarcely get them in the rural municipalities. Wherever there are towns or cities a judge is always available. If a judge happened to leave his district, there is some one to represent him. There is the deputy judge, and the judge of the higher courts. The provision is very ample, and I do not know that we can improve upon it because there