

this plain language means anything else than what appears on its face.

Her Majesty may call out the militia or any part thereof, either within or without Canada, at any time that it appears advisable to do so by reason of war, invasion, insurrection or danger of any of them.

If there could be any doubt, then as the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean) says, let us clear it up, let the Minister of Justice point out the difficulty he had in advising the Crown on that occasion that they could send the militia by Order in Council to any part of the empire. Let the minister tell us what words are lacking in the wording of the section which I think is as broad and ample as is required, and then let us amend the section, and make it clear for all time that there is no doubt as to the government's power to take such action. The Minister of Justice went on to say: Oh, but you can call parliament; the Governor in Council has power to call out the militia for the defence of Canada but if we want it sent abroad let parliament be called. That is not an answer to the situation. What we want on the statute-book is a clear expression to the whole world that we stand for the empire. Then let parliament be called. Parliament is called in England although there the government have the fullest power to send the army and navy to defend the empire in any part of the world. Yet parliament is called to control it, to revise the action of the government. We want the same thing here. We want the government to have the fullest power to send troops at a moment's notice to any part of the world. If parliament is called it could meet in fifteen days, in which time not much could have been done. The enrolment could not be half completed in fifteen days and no harm could have been done. But we want the proclamation on the statute-book, express and clear, that the people of Canada have placed their standing army, that is, our militia at the service of the British empire, at any moment or at any time. If the minister does not do that, he will awaken a sentiment in this country against the militia. I am for the militia; I have helped the minister to get his estimates through this House, but if this kind of humbug is to prevail, if the feeling is to go abroad in Canada that the militia is being used as a tool not to save the empire but to break it up, we had better repeal this Act and throw it to the winds. Let me tell the minister that is the feeling that is growing. I had reason to talk to numbers of militiamen, and every one of them has alluded to this clause and put upon it only one interpretation, that it is intended to separate Canada from the empire eventually and this is one of the steps. If it is not, and hon. gentlemen realize the feeling that exists, why not resort to the old section or let him suggest whatever words he desires to have added

to that section, and then the next time difficulty arises if he should be Minister of Justice he could have no doubt as to the power of the government to call out the militia and to send them to any part of the empire.

From a military standpoint, if the hon. Minister of Militia intends to use the militia for the defence of Canada, he must see that it is necessary to send them abroad for a blow may be struck at India which will destroy Canada, or that blow may be struck in South Africa or in the farthest islands of the sea without a shot being fired in Canada. The Minister of Militia must understand that. It is a matter of plain deduction that this empire may be broken in the farthest islands of the sea and that the government of Canada must have power to send the militia to defend the empire in whatever quarter it may be attacked.

Let the minister make it quite clear that we can send the militia to any part of the world.

Mr. MACLEAN. All I ask is that these limitations be removed. The government have only to strike out these words 'for the defence thereof.' The characteristic of the world to-day is the struggle for mastery in trade, industry and manufactures. There are great men in Europe, statesmen and crowned heads, who are constantly planning trade and industry which the British empire, for the removal of that supremacy in trade and industry which the British empire has to-day. These men are constantly planning in some way to destroy that British supremacy or any portion of it. In treating a question of this kind these men will go by what they find and when they take up the Canadian statutes and see that the statement that the militia force of Canada is only for the defence of Canada and that it cannot be sent out of the country for the defence of Canada, it will encourage them in their design. We do not want to let that impression go abroad; do not let any enemy of the empire be able to use the Canadian statute-book to say: The army of Canada is only for the defence of Canada. Let these men know not only by our statute-book but by our actions, that the people of Canada are behind the empire every time. We have our parliamentary freedom and that being the case, we should not put on record a limitation on our actions.

It is true that our forces are called the active militia. It is an active militia in the sense that it is the citizens' army. It is the citizens' army and the only army we have, except for the permanent force which is provided for in this Act. If that permanent force is anything it is a regular army, and even this, a regular army of only 3,000 men, is governed by this Act so that it cannot be sent abroad for the defence of the empire. There is no reason then to change the law from what it was. This amendment certain-