

correct, but it occurred to me, that, probably, although quite in a proper direction as regards having a sufficient police force to control all municipal difficulties in a particular city or town, the section of the Bill as regards military matters goes farther than that. The suggestion of the hon. member for West Toronto would probably not be capable of being worked out under this section. In reference to the remark just made by the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Ross) I may say that I am not a military man myself and I have no desire to leave my office except I receive more remuneration in some other field. I recognize the truth of the saying that 'they also serve who only stand and wait.' I have been one of the waiters myself. It hardly meets the case to say that in the event of the country being invaded, or a great difficulty arising, we would then leave our shops and places of business and defend the country because there must be some preparation in the meantime. Raw recruits would not be very valuable in such a case as that, and although I recognize the importance of not interfering with the established avenues of trade and business any more than we can possibly avoid, still, there is the necessity of making some reasonable preparation in the meantime. We must also recognize that all of us must make more or less sacrifices in that direction. I do not know that this legislation should be passed at the present time. I think probably it is a matter that might very well be left over for a time until it has been considered. There are certain difficulties that have arisen in the past that it is designed to meet. I wish to direct attention to that point. I was told in reference to a certain organization by a man who is a member of the organization that the reason they did not want their men to join the militia force of the country, was that in case of a disturbance brethren would be called upon to fight against brethren. This is raising a very serious difficulty and probably the suggestion from the hon. member for West Toronto would meet that difficulty very effectually. Probably the difficulty that we meet at the present time as far as these organizations are concerned and their dread of having members of the same organization firing upon other members of the organization on the occasion of a strike would be eliminated by having a police force to control any difficulty that occurs throughout the country.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE. It is very hard to expect that every municipality throughout the country should have a police force that would enable it to cope with difficulties in connection with riots. However, dealing with the matter we have in hand, I would like to point out to the committee the difficulty I have had because of the law that we have now in existence. Section 107 of the Militia Act provides that

Mr. LENNOX.

every officer or man in the militia who refuses when called upon to come to the aid of the civil power is liable to a penalty of \$100. A man may be called upon to join his regiment and he may be in the employ of some one who would dismiss him if he did join. He has to face a fine in one hand and dismissal in the other.

Mr. CLARKE. He is between the devil and the deep sea.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. He is between the hon. gentleman's friend and the deep sea.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. I know of a case where a man belonging to one of the crack regiments in Montreal was actually threatened with dismissal—

Mr. LEMIEUX. Was that the Cooke-Cole case?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. Oh, no. That case was as to a question of etiquette. It was not of much concern to the country at large, but only to the two individuals concerned. I have a letter from a member of a crack corps in Montreal who was called out to protect the property of the citizens on the wharfs recently, and who exposed himself personally to a great deal of inconvenience, but he was threatened with dismissal by his employer. If he did not serve with his regiment he would be fined \$100, and if he did serve he would be dismissed. It seems to me that is anomalous and that we ought to find some remedy for it. Of course you can depend largely upon the good sense and the spirit of patriotism of the merchants and employers of Toronto and Montreal and other great cities, but there are black sheep in every flock.

Mr. BROCK. In all my experience I have never known a case of the kind of which the minister speaks of. Of course it is possible that it may occur, but on the other side it must be remembered that employers are for the most part glad to have their men serve their country, although it may put them to great inconvenience. I have had as many as twenty men called out of my establishment at the one time, and in Montreal I had thirteen serving in the militia recently. I suppose it is needless for me to say that I did not threaten them with dismissal.

Mr. PUTTEE. I am informed that during the recent trouble in Montreal, some of the very men who asked for the militia to be called out and whose property they were protecting, refused to allow their employees to join the militia. In view of such a case as that the consideration that we are giving to this question to-day is justifiable. I do not attach much weight to the objections of these gentlemen who complain that in some cases it works great hardship on them. The farmer and the small trader have to