

lot from any Company than may be required to form, or complete, one sixth of the whole number of the Service men in such Company. By my bill, then, a call is first made for Volunteers; and it is only in default of such that resort is had to the ballot.

Is it so with the present law? are the militiamen referred to in any way for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are willing to be enrolled in the Service Militia? No, not at all; they are not consulted in any way. First of all they are enrolled by the assessors or valuers for the respective municipalities, by whom Rolls of their names are transmitted, in Upper Canada, to the County Clerk, who compiles from them County Rolls; which he delivers to the Clerk of the Peace, in Lower Canada, to the Warden of the County, and from him to the Secretary-Treasurer of the County Council, who compiles from them County Rolls, which he delivers to the Registrar of the County. Then, whenever it pleases the Commander in Chief, the names of all the service men of a municipality are put into one box, from which a certain number are drawn by chance in the presence, in Upper Canada of the Judge, the Sheriff and the Warden of the County, in Lower Canada of the Registrar and Warden of the County and an officer or officers of the Militia. That is all the ceremony there is about it; and if that is not a compulsory system, and one of the worst kind, I must admit that I no longer understand the meaning of words. And yet, it is this beautiful system, this balloting with closed doors, in secret, without the knowledge of the militiamen, that the friends of the late ministry cry up so loudly at the same time that they exert themselves to put the inhabitants of the Province on their guard against what they call *the compulsory system, the draft!* Well! I ask any honest and reasonable man whether it is possible to imagine a more coercive system, or one that is more despotic than the one on which the present law is based?

In my bill I have taken care to restore the old organization of the Sedentary Militia; of that militia which from time immemorial has rendered such good service to the country, and which has hitherto been so popular. I am really unable to understand how it is that certain persons have been so mistaken on the subject of the importance of the sedentary militia. Such persons have not chosen to see in that arm of the public defence any thing but an inert force, commanded by superannuated and incompetent officers, unable to render any service. Those who, in defiance of well known facts in the history of the Sedentary Militia, have hitherto scouted the idea