

Mr. BRECKEN said the hon. Attorney General had referred to the Fire Companies in Charlottetown asking to be exempted from attendance at drill. He (Mr. B.) thought as the men of these Companies had undertaken very important duties, and that voluntarily, they could fairly claim exemption from Militia duty. It was proposed that at least a certain proportion of the firemen in each Company should not be liable to be called out; and considering that these men had to turn out once a month to test their engines, and that they might be summoned to aid in extinguishing a fire any hour of the day or night, he hoped that their prayer for exemption from Militia duties would be granted.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION did not intend to oppose the Bill. The hon. Attorney General had taken the responsibility of it upon his own shoulders; but he (hon. leader Opp.) thought that the hon. Colonial Secretary, as the eldest Militia officer in this House, ought to have undertaken to pilot the measure through its several stages. But all parties should lend their assistance to make the Bill as perfect as possible. As the Opposition of last session gave the Government of that day their aid in regard to Military matters, he deemed it to be his duty to give the present Government all the assistance in his power to render this measure satisfactory. As the millennium had not yet arrived, the best guarantee of peace which any country had was to be prepared for war. If any disturbance should occur between the Parent State and any foreign country, and we loved the Union Jack and those institutions which afforded us so much liberty and which cost so much blood, we ought to be prepared to aid her all that lay in our power. It was not only a despotic government that should be prepared for war; a free country was doubly bound to be ready for every emergency, seeing that she had so much to lose. This was especially the case with us, for we possessed a constitution and enjoyed privileges which were never equalled by those of any country, ancient or modern, on which the sun ever shone. He believed that we could bring into the field 10,000 or 15,000 effective men; all that they required to make them equal if not superior to those in the neighboring Provinces or even in the Mother Country, was a fair share of military training. It might be said that it was more profitable for men to engage in agricultural and mechanical pursuits; still it was the duty of the members of a civilized community to give up a part of their time to train themselves for the defence of their rights. Those who trusted to mercenary soldiers to defend their free institutions, were unworthy to possess such privileges. The Bill contemplated the improvement of our military organization, and though some members of the Government seemed indifferent about so important a measure, he was prepared to give the motion of the hon. Attorney General his hearty support.

Mr. HOWAT thought that a Bill of so stringent a nature as he had heard that before the House was, should have been published, in order that some idea might be formed by the people upon its merits.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON believed that the object of this Bill was to render some clauses in the former one less stringent, and therefore more effective. There was nothing to fear from the Bill as objection-

able clauses could be struck out. In urging upon the House the necessity for passing as perfect a Bill as possible, he remarked upon the uncertain aspect of affairs in the outside world at present, arguing that it was our duty to place ourselves in such a position as would enable us to defend our homes most effectually.

The Bill was then read a second time, and the Hon. Attorney General having moved that the House go into Committee thereon—

Mr. HOWAT, seconded by Hon. Mr. Laird, moved in amendment that the House go into committee on the Bill this day three months.

The question having been put on the amendment it was lost by a vote of 13 to 4—Yeas—Messrs. Howat, Laird, Reilly, McNeill.

House in committee on the Bill.—Mr. Bell in the chair.

On the clause exempting Volunteers from service on juries, and from performing statute labor being read—

Mr. HOWAT remarked that as the time which they were required to spend annually in drill was so short they did not deserve to be exempted from statute labor. He had heard no complaint on the part of the Volunteers.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT remarked that if exempted from statute labor they would be deprived of the privilege of voting at elections. They should not be so exempted, and, indeed, deserved it no more than did the Militia. He thought that if a part only of the militia was called out at a time, it would be better than taking all at once, as at present. The summoning the militia was, in his opinion, a farce, since they could be as well prepared for war on ten days' notice as if they drilled for that length of time every year. When men took a fancy for military matters it was different, but when they were called out against their will and herded together indiscriminately, they learned very little drill; in fact it was little short of tom-foolery. He then alluded to the manner in which one of the Volunteer Companies had lately thrown up its arms, and remarked that his faith in the movement was very much shaken by that occurrence. He would repeat that he considered neither volunteer nor militia men should be exempt from statute labor.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION thought that members of the Government were treating this Bill rather strangely. When the independent member from Tryon, the self-constituted third member for Charlottetown, moved that the House go into Committee on the Bill this day three months, he was surprised to see his hon. colleague in the Government (Mr. Laird) second his motion—a motion to give a Government Bill the "three months' hoist."

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—It was not a Government Bill.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—It should have been. Had ever any hon. member heard of such a measure as this being left an open question? Were the Government afraid to introduce it as a Government measure? The late administration had the manliness to come forward with their Bill and stand or fall by it; but in this case the hon. Attorney