

wisest of men, and my experience has been that in the appointment of these officials the man that should be justice of the peace will not accept the office, and the man who should not have been a justice is the man who wants to be appointed. I would not like to leave anything to their decision.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—In the county of Frontenac, it would be quite a job to find the warden. He lived last year on Wolfe Island, four miles across the lake from Kingston, which is the nearest point to it. In the county of Lennox the warden came from Amherst Island, a very difficult point to get to; in fact the warden is the most difficult man to get at in any of the counties near which I reside. Whether they are more conveniently situated elsewhere, I cannot say. Of course telegraphs are more generally used now. I do not know who suggested putting the warden next to the mayor. The mayor can be got at, but the warden is the most difficult of all those people to reach.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I think we should be all agreed on this, that the warden or mayor or judge or magistrate are the proper authorities to deal with the matter if they can be reached. It is only in cases where they are not on the spot, or where they refuse to act, that we have to provide for justices of the peace. It would not be required, I take it, in the old provinces. It may be required in the west. I think we would meet the difficulty by adopting the amendment suggested by the hon. Secretary of State, together with the amendment which I am going to suggest in subsection 2, by adding after the word 'absent' in line 33 the following:

Or not to be found within ten miles from the place where the riot or disturbance occurs or is anticipated.

Hon. Mr. DeBOUCHERVILLE—The hon. senator thinks that such a difficulty could not arise in the older provinces, but only in the Northwest. I submit that great danger may arise in the old provinces in localities where neither judges, Reeves nor magistrates can be found.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—And no troops.

Hon. Mr. DeBOUCHERVILLE—We passed a Bill to construct a railway running

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some hundreds of miles north of the St. Lawrence, through the province of Quebec, the greater part of it a long distance from all settlements. Supposing there are five or six hundred men employed on that line, and they go on strike and begin to riot, where would you find a magistrate or judge in all that region? That is a contingency which the government should try to meet. I should like indeed to have an explanation how in a case of that kind anybody could be found to issue the warrant?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—The hon. gentleman speaks of the possibility of a riot occurring during the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway. If we cannot find a justice of the peace, we cannot find militia. It will be necessary to reach a place where the militia can be ordered out, and the interested parties will have to come to the settled parts of the country to find magistrates or militia.

On this question of enlarging the jurisdiction of the parties to whom we may apply to have the militia called out, the reason given is that the parties mentioned in the Bill before us would not, perhaps, be available. Wherever there is possibility of a riot there will be a sufficient aggregation of men to find there magistrates and mayors of towns or cities. If you go much beyond those aggregations of men, you will have no riot, and there is hardly a place where such an occurrence could take place where you will not find some of the parties mentioned in the Bill available. As to their refusing to act, I share the view expressed by the hon. gentleman from Cumberland (Hon. Mr. Black) that it is a somewhat risky thing to allow justices of the peace, even three of them, to have the power to call out the militia. One strong-headed man being justice of the peace, or not, who is bent on getting out the militia, will find three weak-headed men called justices of the peace to give their signatures to any kind of a requisition. It seems to me there is a considerable responsibility involved in calling out the militia, financial responsibility, and responsibility to the people. Should we not leave to men in high places, the mayor and warden, that responsibility which will finally fall upon the people who elected them? I am convinced that we should leave some responsibility with