

you talk with on the street will tell you at once, after the former debate we had here, that the clear intention of the change was to drive a wedge between this country and the empire. Whether that is true or not I will not say, but I do say that in the public opinion of this country there has been created a doubt as to the fealty and loyalty of Canada to the empire. That is an unfortunate thing at this time but what did we see in London the other day? In the unfortunate speech made by the Solicitor General, with whom I am friendly and in reference to whom I do not wish to say a word in his absence, he emphasized the fact that there was in Canada a separatist party. I do not myself endorse that proposition, but I am arguing as to the effect of this upon the world and I am pointing out what public opinion is in Canada since the Solicitor General made that speech. I am not frightened at separation. No power on earth can separate any portion of Canada from this empire. Any man who has any wish in his heart or any dream that Canada will ever be torn from the empire must remember that the streets will flow with British blood before he gets his wish, and any man who entertains that idea will most surely be disillusioned. No power under Heaven can separate this country from the British empire. But, there are worse things than that and that is to create the public opinion that Canada has really not any interest in the empire and is not prepared to go to the defence of the empire in time of need. If those gentlemen who recently charged that there is a separatist party in this country would act decently there would be no need of such a public opinion existing in the world. All those men who are so alarmed when the charge is made that there is a separatist party in this country need do is to turn around and make the speech I am making to-day, to stand by the empire and to stand up for anything that will strengthen Canada and destroy the notion that there is the least vestige of public opinion in this country in favour of separation from the empire. I want to deal for the moment with the speech of the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Sir Frederick Borden). Coming from Nova Scotia he should have common sense, he should have the power of mental discrimination, and he should have the power when he reads a section of the Bill to know what it means. When he tells me that there is no change in the two sections it is impossible for me to believe that the hon. gentleman has read the section which is before us. It would be impossible for me to believe that any man could have made the statement that there is no clear and wide difference between these two sections if he had read them. But the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has made a more extraordinary and misleading state-

Mr. GOURLEY.

ment still. I do not know he intended it because it strikes me that he does not thoroughly understand this Bill. When in answer to the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) he stated that the volunteers in England could not be sent abroad he must have intended in giving that answer and in drawing that parallel to mislead the House. There is no similarity whatever between the two cases. In England the standing army defends the shores of the mother country and defends the empire all over the world and in case of an emergency the English government can send every one of these soldiers of the empire away from England for service in any part of the world and in doing so leave the country absolutely defenceless. All the navy may at any day be sent abroad. Therefore England has made provision that she can call out her militia to defend her shores while the army is abroad fighting the battles of the empire. You agree to send our militia abroad to fight our battles and I will agree that the volunteers required for the defence of the country after that shall not be sent out of the country. That will be a parallel. The militia is our standing army and we want it to be placed on the same footing as the standing army in England so that the Governor in Council can send it to any part of the world to defend this empire. Then in reference to the naval militia which is being established, I want power given to the Governor in Council to send it to any part of the world. It would be extraordinary if that were not provided. I say that when the Minister of Militia undertook to persuade this House that there was no comparison and no argument in citing the case of the volunteers of England not being sent abroad he was utterly and absolutely misleading and the Minister of Militia will never be able to make any one believe that that is an argument for this change. The Minister of Justice said that he had great doubt about the construction of this old section. I do not wish to say anything unkind of any one, but I think that his attitude with reference to the construction of this section arose not out of his mind, but out of the circumstance that he represents a city in the province of Quebec. At the time of the South African war it was well known that the province of Quebec unfortunately—and that is the only thing I do not like about the province—unfortunately at the time it was believed that every man in the province of Quebec was opposed to sending a soldier to help the empire in that part of the empire, and that gentleman representing a constituency down there may well have imbibed that opinion, and the opinion he gave on that occasion was more or less influenced, as all our opinions are, by our local surroundings. I can only accept his opinion as being the result of his surroundings because it is impossible to believe that