

objectionable, and looked seriously suspicious. Was not the Government able to specify one, or more, of the "general purposes"? If so, why not name some of them at once, as the late Government did when they extended the Land Purchase Bill. If their ideas could not be explained in plain English, they showed themselves ill qualified for such an undertaking as raising a loan abroad. If they could, but would not, foreshadow their policy, the people and their Representatives had strong reason to look upon the whole scheme with distrust. Was it the constitutional functions of any responsible Government to open a small discounting office, or a broker's shop? If the present Government did not intend to have recourse to some such means, he could not understand how they were to grant relief to country or city merchants. In view of all these circumstances, he deemed it his duty to oppose the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES would like to ask what the constitutional functions of any Government were? Under the approaching embarrassments entailed upon the country by the late Government, he did not see how the present Government could avoid the course they were now pursuing. He considered the positions of the Banks and of the commerce of the Island to be such that it was the duty of the Government to interfere; and he did not see how the Government could accomplish the end in view other than as provided for in this Bill. Considering the effect which the payments for the Cunard Estate had on our trade, and being aware of the resources of the Island, he felt it to be his duty, as one member of the Government, to give his support to the measure. If it was for the purpose of issuing treasury notes the case would be quite different.

Mr. BELL was much surprised that the hon. member for Murray Harbor (Hon. Mr. Henderson) should have been allowed to take up the time of this hon. House, obviously for the purpose of making a speech. He had come forward in this unparliamentary manner to offer his opposition to a measure necessitated upon the present Government by the action of the very Government of which he was a member.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The course of the hon. member was evidently unparliamentary.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—Did the hon. member (Mr. Bell) take upon himself to tell him when he (Mr. H.) was in order?

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION then moved in amendment to the motion of the hon. Attorney General that the word "now" be left out, and the words "this day three months" added at the end thereof. The amendment being seconded by Hon. Mr. McAulay, the House divided thereon as follows:—

Yeas—Hons. Messrs. Haviland, McAulay, Henderson; Messrs. Green, Brecken, Prowse, McLennan, Owen—8.

Nays—Hons. Messrs. Attorney General, Laird, Coles, Callbeck, Howlan, Davies; Messrs. Reilly, G. Sinclair, Bell, Arsenault, McCormack, Howat, McNeill, Kichham, Cameron, P. Sinclair—16.

The question being then put on the main motion it was carried in the affirmative, when the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Militia Bill.

The House again in committee on the Bill to add to and amend the "Act for the regulation of the Militia and Volunteer forces."

Dr. JENKINS said that last night he had submitted a clause respecting the exemption of the firemen from militia duty, which was considered imperfect. He had since had a conversation with the firemen, and they thought that it was better to leave the matter to the officers of the different companies, authorizing them to say who should be exempted from militia duties.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL would not object as the number to be exempted was but sixty; but he thought that there was something more wanted. How could we find out who the senior members of the companies were? In the prior clause which he had inserted, parties had to file their certificates in the office of the Adjutant General, and until they did this he thought it was not right to allow them to have their names enrolled for the purpose of taking the benefit of this clause.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT thought the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department the proper person to find this out.

Mr. REILLY, before the question was put, would like to know why fourteen days' notice should be given?

Dr. JENKINS.—So that the Captains of the Companies might have time to send in the exemptions.

Mr. BKECKEN.—Only one filing was required.

Mr. REILLY moved that the word "eighty" be substituted for the word "sixty;" and in moving this would say that as there were five or six companies, sixty would only make an exemption of about ten for each company.

Mr. BRECKEN remarked that one of the captains had said that eighty would be the proper number to exempt.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD seconded the motion of amendment, and said that if the men were exempted the Fire Wardens should be entitled to the same privilege.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION had observed that in the law of Nova Scotia passed last year, (sec. 69,) they placed the Fire Wardens under militia duty, and exempted the millers.

The amendment was then agreed to.

The Section relating to the time to be spent in drill being read,

Mr. PROWSE said that it would be well to allow Volunteers to put in two drills in the one day.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT thought that the militia would like to put in six hours in the one day likewise.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL said that most military men were of opinion that one-and-a-half hour's drill was enough for one day. The question was, will three hours' drill be too much? Perhaps the hon. member for Murray Harbor could give some information on that point.