

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It will be interesting to know whether the minister, in framing this law, got permission from the labour organizations in the country to insert a provision of this kind in the Bill, because I have seen in Toronto resolutions passed by labour unions condemning this practice, asserting that they had no right to authorize boys to join these cadet corps, those particularly who were attending school. There is a great deal of pandering to that element just now, and it would be well to know if the government has got the consent of these organizations to this clause?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It would be purely voluntary.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—That is a good answer to the question I asked.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 70,

70. The Governor in Council may place the militia, or any part thereof, on active service anywhere in Canada and also beyond Canada, for the defence thereof, at any time when it appears advisable so to do by reason of emergency.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Will the minister explain to us why the change is made?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—If the hon. gentleman will read clause 71 it will help him to understand it.

71. Whenever the Governor in Council places the militia, or any part thereof, on active service, if parliament is then separated by such adjournment or prorogation as will not expire within ten days, a proclamation shall be issued for the meeting of parliament within fifteen days, and parliament shall accordingly meet and sit upon the day appointed by such proclamation, and shall continue to sit and act in like manner as if it had stood adjourned or prorogued to the same day.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The question I ask is, why the change is made from the present law by adding the words 'for the defence thereof'. The old law reads:—

Her Majesty may call out the militia, or any part thereof, for active service either within or without Canada at any time when it appears advisable.

The new clause reads:—

The Governor in Council may place the militia or any part thereof, on active service anywhere in Canada and also beyond Canada, for the defence thereof, &c.

The old clause gave wider latitude to the government than this clause does.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon gentleman knows, probably, if he has followed the debate in the other House, that this was debated for several days, and this clause was, I think, a compromise between the parties.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—My conviction is that it is to harmonize it with the regulations in Great Britain.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—If the hon. gentleman will turn to the Army Act he will find there is power and authority which is not given in this Bill, for the Minister of War to apply to the militia, and ask them to go out. There is nothing of that kind here. This is a peremptory declaration that they shall not be called out for that purpose. It is not necessary to go into the reasons which induced England to adopt that policy, but we must not forget that they have a very large standing army, not only in Great Britain but all over the world, and, consequently, the same power would not be used in regard to the militia that there would be in Canada where we have no standing army, beyond what may be called the regular corps, and the provisions in the Army Act are, in case the militia may be required, His Majesty—which means of course the Minister of War—may ask them to volunteer individually and also to turn out as companies and regiments; so it recognizes the right of the Crown to do that, while I admit it is not positive or peremptory. It strikes one who has paid any attention to the administration, that there is a reason for putting this in, and if I give expression to the reasons which appeal to me, I lay myself open to the charge of adversely criticising these clauses, a right which the hon. Secretary of State thinks we are unduly exercising. Of course, as a senator, my impression is that this Bill was sent here expressly for the purpose of being criticised. We know the difficulty that arose when the Boer war broke out, when it was suggested by some officers of the volunteer force that their corps should be allowed to volunteer in aid of the defence of the empire; the premier, in an interview with a reporter of the government organ in Toronto, the 'Globe,' expressed