

in Canada which should be called upon to suppress cases of riot and cases of disorder.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I regret that I have to dissent absolutely from the view expressed that a regular soldier in any sense should be employed, or that Dominion policemen in any sense should be employed, to suppress disorder within the bounds of a municipality. It is all right enough in unorganized territories which are under the direct control of the Dominion government, to have a Dominion force to preserve law and order; but in municipalities like Toronto and Montreal, I insist that no regular soldier should be called out, other than as a member of the militia force of Canada, to preserve law and order. The sooner we teach the municipalities and business men of this country that each municipality must preserve its own law and order the better. In reference to the point made by the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Brock) that there are certain men who could not be spared to be called out with the militia, if that be so, then, the Militia Act is the place to have these men excepted. I can see no reason why a man occupying a position in a warehouse in Toronto should be exempted from serving his country. There are men exempted from military service, but I can see no reason why any man occupying any position in the city of Toronto should be exempted from serving his country when other people are obliged to do their duty and incur the odium and loss of time that necessarily falls to the lot of a man who becomes a member of the militia force. As a taxpayer of this country, I object to paying the expense of a regular force to be kept up through the length and breadth of this country to suppress disorders in cities and towns amongst communities that are not capable of preserving law and order themselves. The proper plan in a democratic country like Canada is as far as possible to depend upon the tolerant spirit and respect for law and order to be found in all communities in this country. We should depend upon the militia force which is the people's force rather than to attempt to emulate the policy of continental Europe in having large standing armies, because we must rely upon each man in this country to recruit as a militiaman and do his duty in the ranks.

Mr. ROBINSON (West Elgin). It would certainly be a very great hardship if the farmers of this country were subject to fine and imprisonment if they demurred to allowing their hired men and sons to be called out to perform military duties especially at this season of the year. Suppose they were called out now when the harvest is on, it would be a shame to punish a farmer by fine or imprisonment if he did not allow his hired man to go.

Mr. LEMIEUX. May I ask the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence what has

become of the protest or petition sent from Montreal by the city council in regard to the expenditure incurred during the strikes in the month of May? I understand an account was filed which the city council refused to pay, and that a protest or perhaps a deputation, was sent to the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence asking the government to pay. Was there anything of that kind?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There was a petition.

Mr. LEMIEUX. And the answer, if I understand well, was that the city council should themselves pay these expenses?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Certainly.

Mr. CLARKE. I did not hear the answer of the hon. minister.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The answer was that the city of Montreal should pay these bills itself.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE. The government has nothing to do with this matter.

Mr. ROSS (Ontario). I am afraid that if we went as far as the gallant colonel who represents Victoria (Mr. Hughes) suggests, we should have conscription in this country and the people would be compelled to serve in the militia. There are some people in this country who do not believe that everybody should be a soldier. There are some of us who are merchants and I heartily sympathize with the views expressed by the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Brock). For instance, while I am a merchant I am here attending to my duties as a member of parliament. I have managers and bookkeepers to do my business during my absence. If they should be military men and if they should be obliged to leave their duties during two or three weeks while I was absent performing my duties as a member of parliament who is there to look after my business? I cannot conceive that the proposed law is in the interests of the people; or at all events, there should be some modification so that under certain circumstances only it would come into operation. I am certain that it is the sense of every hon. member of this House that if war were to break out we should leave our shops and fight for our country, but that is not going to take place, we hope, for many long years, and we pray, never.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Hear, hear.

Mr. ROSS (Ontario). I know that in times of peace we should prepare for war, but we should prepare for it in an intelligent manner.

Mr. LENNOX. I have the greatest respect for the statements made by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), and the suggestion he makes may be perfectly