

the trouble of making the observation, in view of what his leader has said. I do not believe that there is any one in the country who suspects me of being capable of doing anything that is derogatory to the militia. I am prepared to go on in the way that is suggested by the hon. leader of the opposition.

Mr. INGRAM. It does not become the Minister of Militia to be quite so touchy at the remarks I have made. I have a responsibility to my constituents and in discharging that responsibility I did not reflect upon the character or aims of the minister. When I have anything to say with respect to the minister and his department, I am manly enough to say it in good plain English; I will not do it by insinuations.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The hon. gentleman did not intend to say that there were insinuations—

Mr. INGRAM. Certainly not.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Then we understand each other.

Mr. CLARKE. Since the discussion commenced I have been favoured with an extra number of copies of the Bill, and I shall place them in the hands of my constituents with the least possible delay. If it is the desire of the minister to go ahead, I trust that he will make his explanations on this important Bill as fully as possible, so that our constituents may have an opportunity of ascertaining what the Bill contains.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. As I understand it you are not going to pass any of the clauses at all; the minister will simply place upon the pages of 'Hansard' a distinct statement as to any clause which differs either by omission or by addition from the law as it is at present. Having done that we shall be a little better informed than at present as to the object and scope of the Bill, but shall not have made any progress in the passage of the Bill.

Mr. McCREARY. The right is reserved of discussing any part of the Bill on the third reading.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The Bill will remain in committee and not a single clause is to be passed.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That is all. We are simply following the suggestion of the hon. member for Toronto, Mr. Clarke, at the outset, namely, that I should give a little further information.

Mr. CLARKE. I am very glad we are going to have an opportunity of hearing more as to the provisions of this Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The understanding is then that we shall have a discussion on each section of the Bill, but that the section shall be allowed to stand.

Sir F. W. BORDEN.

On section 1.—Short title.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The old title was Militia and Defence Act. It seemed to me that, as the naval militia is to be withdrawn from the control of the Minister of Militia, it would not be a correct description to call the department the Department of Militia and Defence. Consequently the word 'defence' has been dropped. The old title seemed rather long and although a good many suggestions were made to call it 'the Department of Defence,' and to call the militia 'the forces of Canada' and so on, it seemed to me that 'the militia of Canada' is a name for which the people of Canada have a very great regard. It is a force which has taken a conspicuous part in the history of this country from 1776 down to the present day, and I felt that even although some of the officers might not like it as well, the people generally would probably be better pleased by continuing the old name, 'the militia.' Therefore we shortened the title from 'The Militia and Defence Act,' to simply 'The Militia Act.'

On section 2.—Interpretation.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The interpretation is changed but it seems to me that the change is so obvious that it does not require any further explanation except to say that it is much more complete than the interpretation clause in the present Bill.

On section 3.—Interpretation Act to apply.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The same remark would apply to section 3.

On section 4.—Command in chief vested in His Majesty.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. This section is practically unchanged.

On section 5.—Duties of the Minister of Militia.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Section 5 is practically the same as the present law.

On section 6.—Deputy and officers.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Section 6 is the same except that the words 'and defence' are omitted as I explained a moment ago.

On section 7.—Minister to have control of military buildings.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Section 7 is the same except that it provides in addition that the Department of Militia has power to construct forts and fortifications. There is no such power under the present law.

On section 8.—Certain works for defence declared public works.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Section 8 is the same as section 9 of the old Act with some modifications.