

as applied to labouring men any more than to any one else. I am one of those who believe that the labourers of the country are just as peaceable and law-abiding as other people, and riots are just as possible from other sources as from that source. It is simply for the general good and maintaining the peace of the community that I discuss it. The question, as affected by the residence of judges, varies in different parts of Canada. In the province of Quebec there are district judges. I suppose it is so in the maritime provinces.

Hon. Mr. POWER—No.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—But in Ontario the county judge and the judges residing at Toronto are the only judges. In the old Act, if I recollect right, the sheriff of the county came in.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—Two justices of the peace.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—The sheriff did not, under any circumstances, have jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No. the sheriff had no power.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—Under any circumstances, the necessity of having to go or to send to Toronto from the most easterly portion of Ontario is not workable, and some provision should be made whereby immediate action can be taken if the warden or county judge declines to act.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—I think it would be a serious thing to give the power of calling out the militia to too many justices of the peace. We have a great many justices of the peace over this country, and it would be easy to get two of them in almost any county to sign a requisition. It is a very serious thing to call out the militia at all. This Bill provides probably enough means for calling them out in place of giving to two magistrates in every county where we have fifteen to twenty or thirty, the power. It would be a serious matter to give the right of calling out the militia to too many people.

Hon. Mr. BLACK—We are discussing this too much from our local standpoint. Take, for instance, the county of Cumberland, which

I represented for a long time in the local legislature. It is 50 miles wide and 100 miles long. It is not at all likely that any riot will take place in that county except in the towns. Generally riot occurs in mining districts where it would be very easy to get two magistrates to call out the militia. In fact I might say there are cases where it would be almost difficult to get a magistrate not in the employ or under the control of the managers of the mine. Now, there is a local case where it would be a very dangerous thing to give that power to two magistrates. The case of the destruction of property has been cited, but if you refer to history you will find that there is bloodshed very often in those cases, and it very rarely occurs until the militia are called out. It ought to be a very extreme case when that is resorted to. When strikes and riots occur, there is intense excitement in the community, and it requires in those cases very clear-headed, judicious men to deal with it. In my own county I would say that the mayor or warden and then the judge are all accessible, but I cannot say how it is in the case of some counties that have been cited here. It may be more difficult, and we should legislate to provide for all. I am prepared to look at it in the broadest light. The reeve has been spoken of; in the maritime provinces we do not know what reeve means.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—It means the mayor of a municipality.

Hon. Mr. BLACK—We call them mayors always.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The reeve in Ontario is the head of a township municipality.

Hon. Mr. BLACK—I am perfectly satisfied with the Bill as it is, but it would not meet the local conditions in the county from which I come. I would not think it wise legislation to allow the magistrates hastily to decide this thing. I would rather delay a little to get at the judge, because sometimes it is not best to be hasty in such matters. Of course it reflects upon a certain official part of our population to say that they are not all as intelligent and discreet as we would like them to be. In our section of the country, we often have justices of the peace who are not the