

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The militia could not be sent to this country.

Mr. GOURLEY. That is a quibble.

Mr. SPROULE. Do you mean that the militia could not be sent out of the United Kingdom?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. It could not.

Mr. SPROULE. Well, I was mistaken, because I thought it could be.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No.

Mr. SPROULE. I thought at any time it could be sent to any part of the world long before there were any signs of war, and that the government could at any time open proceeding with those great ironclads in any part of the world, though parliament might not be in session, in defence of the country. And is it to be said that an integral part of the British empire, which is defended by the empire on the high seas as well the United Kingdom itself, shall be unwilling or unable to bring our forces into co-operation with the empire and defend it in any part of the world?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We are not.

Mr. SPROULE. If what the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence contended be correct, we are because I claim that even without the consent of parliament the British fleet may be ordered to any part of the world when there is the slightest sign of danger.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. That is right.

Mr. SPROULE. And it goes to the scene of the trouble at a moment's notice if necessary to open the batteries of its ironclads against the enemy.

Mr. GOURLEY. And the regular army.

Mr. SPROULE. And the regular army may also be sent. That is protection in the highest sense of the word. That is the authority which the imperial government have and that it is derived from the English Act which we are copying. But we are confining it to a limited area, whereas England has the whole empire as her field of operations. For that reason I say that we would be doing less than our duty if we did not hold ourselves in readiness at any time to go to the defence of the empire, and if our government, taking the responsibility upon their shoulders, were not prepared to do as they did in the South African affair and send our forces out to protect the empire and defend our flag. What is the use of our connection with the mother country if it is not that? We receive her protection the world over. Our commerce, our trade our people are under her care and we feel that we are safe because of the protection which we enjoy from the British fleet and the British army. Are we to be such pol-

troons that we are not prepared to throw in our quota to help to defend the empire in any part of the world wherever the need may be? We are doing less than our duty as an integral part of the British empire and less than what the loyal sentiment of Canada demands if we restrict our Act in such a way that we cannot do our duty in that respect and if we fail in our duty we will be held strictly to account by the loyal people of Canada.

Mr. JABEL ROBINSON. Mr. Chairman, there is nothing that would tend so much to the peace of the world as to have it known that the British empire and colonies stood ready at any moment to defend themselves. I am satisfied that if the powers of Europe knew that not only Canada, but Australia, South Africa, and all the British colonies were bound together, not by a rope of sand, but by a strong and firm determination to defend every part of the empire they would hesitate long before they would make war against the British empire. Therefore, I think this clause should be framed in such a way that we could at any time as occasion demanded, say that our men should go to the defence of the empire. I hope a provision will be inserted in the Bill under which we will be able at any time, without calling parliament together in case our safety is placed in jeopardy, in case a nation makes war against us to send our militia to the defence. We do not know how soon such an occasion may arise. Suppose a foreign fleet were to come up the St. Lawrence, and we do not know how soon that may happen because Great Britain is continually in trouble, would we Canadians sit quietly here waiting until parliament met? On the contrary would we not go against the enemy determined to defend our shores? I think so and I think we should be able to send our troops outside of Canada if need be. I think we should have the power to send them wherever it was necessary to defend the British empire.

Mr. SEYMOUR GOURLEY (Colchester). Mr. Chairman, I am not in the habit of using very strong language in this House. At the same time, I believe it would be almost justified to-day. I do not know whether it is the intention of the draughtsman or not, I cannot enter into his mind and therefore I cannot charge against the draughtsman the intention of entering a wedge between Canada and the British empire, but I am allowed from what the draughtsman has done to draw my own conclusion and the conclusion I draw from reading the clause as changed and from reading the old Act is that there was a distinct intention to make a clear-cut change in regard to the power of this government over the militia. That is clear. Every man and especially every militiaman that