

ing out the troops at all. This is an entirely new clause.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. But you have altered the terms of the section from what they were before as to calling out the militia. Why do you require to do that if you have parliament summoned within fifteen days? Is not that a sufficient safeguard so far as concerns the use to which the militia might be put? It seems to me to be the greatest possible safeguard, and a proper safeguard, because in parliament you have the voice of the country acting upon the government and directing them in what the will of the country is.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I have explained that there was no object except to make quite clear what the intention of the Act was. I think there never was any doubt as to the meaning of the Act, although the words, perhaps, were not so clear as they ought to be. 'For the defence thereof,' those words have been introduced, so that it might be quite clear that the calling out of the militia to serve outside the country could not be done except for the purpose of the defence of Canada. I said this afternoon that the only object of the militia corps in, so far as I knew, in any country, at any rate in the British empire, is for home defence. The United Kingdom itself has passed a law providing that the militia shall not serve without the territory of the United Kingdom. The same idea is contained in all the militia laws of all parts of the empire and it did not seem to me that there would be any doubt upon that point. A good deal has been said this afternoon about this being a retrograde step. I do not understand that this law in its spirit differs in any way from the old law.

Mr. GOURLEY. Why not leave the old Act?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am sure my hon. friend would not pretend to say that under the law as it is to-day the government could send a corps of the militia upon foreign service.

Mr. GOURLEY. I have not the slightest doubt of it; you could send them anywhere.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am quite prepared to come to close quarters on that question and I am quite prepared to say that in so far as the militia are concerned I do not believe it is in the interests of the militia that a provision of that kind should be made.

Mr. GOURLEY. Why, every man in Canada wants to go.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I do not think the hon. gentleman himself would seriously contemplate a proposition by which the government would have authority to

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order the militia to serve a thousand miles away from Canada.

Mr. GOURLEY. Why not? What are we here for?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. It is for the hon. gentleman to explain that. I do not think that any thoughtful man looking at the condition of things in this young country—

Mr. GOURLEY. Explain yourself. Tell me what you mean.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN—would seriously propose to enact a statute which would place in the hands of any government the power of ordering out the militia to serve in distant parts of the world.

Mr. BARKER. That is the old Act.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. It is not the old Act. I have taken the trouble to go to the statute of old Canada and of the various provinces in this Dominion and there I have found that not one of them contains a provision by which the militia can be sent outside of the province itself. That being the case it seems to me that we may just as well understand where we are and I accept, fully, absolutely and entirely, myself, the responsibility for the proposition which is contained in this clause.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not know that there is anything very extraordinary about that. It is usually supposed that when an hon. gentleman introduces a Bill into this House he accepts the responsibility for it.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The hon. gentleman need not sneer at my statement. If he had been here this afternoon he would have heard all sorts of charges and insinuations against hon. gentlemen on this side of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I cannot help what took place this afternoon. All I repeat is that when an hon. gentleman introduces a Bill into this House he is supposed to take full responsibility for it and there is nothing that seems extraordinary about that. I was not aware that the militia of the United Kingdom were confined in the way the hon. gentleman suggests. In a report of the recent army council it is put in this way: that the militia may be ordered for certain service out of the United Kingdom, but not the volunteers. Whether that is a correct statement of the law I do not know—

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN—but I can refer the hon. gentleman to the report in a few minutes. If my memory is not altogether at fault without having the document be-