

section which refers the question back to the people.

Progress reported.

Hon. Mr. SMITH brought in a Bill relating to Rail-roads.

Mr. CONNELL brought in a Bill relating to marriage.

House adjourned until 9 a. m., Monday.
T. P. D.

SATURDAY MORNING, May 20, 1866.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved the House into Committee of the Whole on a Bill relating to Attorneys and Barristers of the Supreme Court.

Mr. LEWIS in the Chair.

The Bill was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. ALLEN moved the House into Committee of the Whole on a Bill RELATING TO THE MILITIA.

Sections 1 to 12 were read and passed without discussion. On the reading of Sec. 13, which provides that "the commanding officer of every volunteer corps shall receive a sum not exceeding \$2 per head for every effective member of such corps, to provide for the proper care of arms and accoutrements, and to meet the expenses of the corps."

Mr. CUDLIP suggested that it might be well to have some clause inserted to prevent any officer from putting into his own pocket any surplus funds that might not be expended for the purposes enumerated, but pay it back.

Hon. Mr. ALLEN explained that there would be no need of any thing of this kind, as no officer would receive any money till he had made up an estimate to show what amount the corps would need. The section passed, as did also 14, 15 and 16.

On Sections 17 and 18 there was some scattered discussion as to the volunteer corps being exempt from the payment of taxes to the extent of six dollars, after which they were struck out; but on the suggestion of Hon. Mr. WILMOT, supported by the Hon. Mr. SMITH, and others, they were reconsidered and after being amended were passed. The alterations made were, the striking out of Class B, as exempted, and permitting volunteers to be clear of paying City, County and Parish rates and taxes, to the amount of six dollars.

Section 19 was passed without amendment, but 20 was entirely withdrawn, and the following substituted by the hon. mover of the Bill.

"20. The articles of engagement of all volunteer corps shall be subject to the approval of the Commander-in-Chief; and such volunteer corps shall be drilled and exercised at such times in each year, (not exceeding ten days) and at such places as the Commander-in-Chief may order; and such corps shall be subject to inspection from time to time by such person or persons as shall be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief for that purpose."

"21. The men of Class B and Class C, of the active militia, shall be carefully enrolled, and shall, when not exempted, assemble for muster upon one day in each year, at such time and place as the commanding officer of each battalion may direct to each company therein, interfering as little as possible with seed-time and harvest; but no person shall be required to travel more than twelve miles from his usual place of residence to attend such muster."

Mr. CUDLIP—I am opposed to the

one day muster, as I consider that it results in no benefit to the people. Experience has shown that it is a ridiculous farce to call out men and drill them for a few hours on one day in a year. The *Morning Freeman* for September 24th, 1864, in speaking of the last general muster says:

"Now that these musters are over for the season, would it not be well for the sensible men of the community to ask themselves 'what good has been effected, or what can be effected, by compelling three or four thousand men, in the City and Portland, to leave their business for one day in the year to play fool and be the laughing stock of the idlers who go to see them on the Barrack Square or elsewhere? Is the strength or the efficiency of the militia force promoted in the slightest degree by such a waste of time? Would St. John be better able to resist attack after this muster and drill than it was before.' We believe the effect of these miserable displays must be to create such a dislike of militia service, as must do material mischief should it ever be necessary to set the militia to work in earnest. The Legislature never intended that those ridiculous attempts at drilling men in an hour or two on one day of the year should be made, and the law gives no authority to the commanding officers to expose the men in such a way to ridicule. We believe that even the muster is a waste of time. It is for the merchants and mechanics of the city to determine for themselves whether such proceedings shall be repeated."

This is sufficient to shew the uselessness of the one day muster. All that is necessary is to enroll the names of the men, to see what is really the available strength of the country; but to give the power into the hands of the commanding officer to call out men simply to play the fool is of no use whatever.

Hon. Mr. ALLEN.—The late Bill provided that men should be called out and drilled. This merely provides that they shall be mustered to answer to their names. Whether the people in St. John acted as stated in the *Freeman* or not, I do not know, but here, and in many other parts of the country, they acted with propriety. In this Bill there is a dispensing clause which will give the power into the hands of the Commander-in-Chief to call them out only if it is needed. As to the people not being willing to be called out, they muster enough at races and exhibitions, and why should they not assemble when the purpose is a legal one?

Mr. SUTTON.—The men turned out well in Northumberland, and we had His Excellency there, who expressed himself as very much pleased with their orderly appearance.

Mr. McCLELLAN.—I cannot agree with hon. members who are anxious to keep up this absurdity. Every man who turns out on general drill day is a dollar lost to the labour of the country, and I am persuaded that it entails a great amount of taxation on the people without resulting in any benefit.

Mr. HILL.—I agree with the hon. member for Albert. I think it one of the greatest farces that ever came before the people. It does not answer the purpose for which it was intended. At St. Stephen, at the last inspection, there was a great deal of military feeling shown; at least there was a large amount of fighting on men's private musters. After the clock, those who did not belong to temperance

societies went in for drinking and fighting, and before night the town presented in appearance very much like Doneybrook Fair; there were black eyes, and noses that enquired the way over one or the other shoulder, and the whole thing partook of the nature of a civil war. I think the chief tendency of a one day muster is to demoralize, and therefore I am opposed to it.

Mr. LEWIS, Mr. WILLISTON, and Hon. Mr. GILLMOR, took similar views, showing the loss to the country in labor, the disadvantages of having to shut down mills and other places of business, and the demoralizing effect of the proceedings of the day. They also expressed the opinion that the enrollment could as effectually be made by a Captain and Adjutant going through the respective districts and learning who were fit for service.

Mr. BOYD said the day could not be dispensed with, as the commanding officer would not be able to get any accurate returns without it.

Hon. Mr. SMITH said he believed the muster was no good; that it was demoralizing and a burden to the country, but as there was a dispensing clause he should support it. He did not think the power would be used except in cases where it became absolutely necessary.

AFTERNOON SESSION—3 P. M.

Mr. CUDLIP.—I agree with hon. members who think a day of general muster is not required; I think my constituents will not accord with this section of the Bill, and although I am not prepared to offer any amendment, yet I wish it set on record that I am not favorable to this one day muster, as it interferes with the business of the country. I would rather see some such an arrangement as they had in old times, when training day was combined with fairs and agricultural exhibitions.

Mr. GILBERT.—I agree with the hon. member for St. John, that the one day's muster is of no practical use; the mills have to be stopped, all kinds of work suspended, and the day is in reality wasted. More than this, I do not believe in delegating the power to call them out to the Commander-in-Chief.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT.—I was one of the seven who opposed the suspension of the old militia law, and I did so, as I believed that every man from eighteen to sixty should be enrolled, and be willing, in case of need, to turn out to defend his home and hearth. In the United States they had little or no organization, and one day they woke up and found they had to enter upon one of the most tremendous wars the world ever saw. I hope we shall not pursue the same course, and in the day of trouble find ourselves in the same position as they were before the war. I do not look upon the turning out for one day as a burden to the country. It is simply giving the people a holiday, just such as we had on the 4th of June, the old King's birthday.

Mr. BOYD.—If the ideas of hon. members who oppose this section were carried out, we might just as well sweep the whole Militia Bill from the Statute Book. If a day is not appointed for the mustering and enrollment of the men, no return could be made of the available force of the country, as no captain would be willing to go from house to house to enroll his men without being handsomely paid for his trouble.

Mr. LINDSAY.—It is said the day is not suitable for drill, but merely to get the men to appear to the command. It is a ri-