

decent ideas to make men leave their work and travel, as many would have to, twelve miles, just for this purpose. It is well known that the day is one of drunkenness and frolic. It seems—though the chief object was to let a few officers parade 'round and show their uniform.' The whole thing puts me in mind of the fiasco of some poet—

"Man, vain man, when clothed in brief authority
Cuts such fantastic tricks before High Heaven
As makes an angel weep."

Mr. WILMORE referred to the unfair manner in which appointments had been made, as was evident from the fact that he held an engine's commission in the Westmorland Militia since April 1842,—from the way in which its valuable services had been overlooked one would imagine it was dated the 1st of that month. He did not think that one day muster was a burden to the people, and as to their behaving unwisely at the last general drill in St. John, he could assure the House that, notwithstanding the article in the *Freeman*, he had been credibly informed that the men behaved themselves with becoming dignity, and exhibited an earnest desire to become proficient in their exercises. He did not see why the Commander-in-Chief should not have the power to call them out; if he had not the power, who should have it?

The section then passed, as did also 22 and 23.

Section 24: "The Commander-in-Chief shall by General Order designate the Battalions from which the companies to be exercised shall be drawn, and shall appoint the time for the assembling and dismissal of such companies; but no company shall be compelled to serve for a longer period than twenty-eight days, and no Battalion shall be obliged to furnish more than one such company in each year."

Mr. GILBERT.—I would ask if this Committee is going to endorse by their action the principle of compulsory drill, which this section contemplates? If the House pass it, I must, before they do so, enter my solemn protest against it. I am sure the country will not endorse it. That the men from the different companies shall be compelled to leave their vocations and go to some place, and there be drilled for twenty-eight days is a preposterous idea. And what benefit will it be? Will twenty-eight days suffice to make them proficient? for by this law the same men will not be taken each year, but sixty men each year till the whole have been drilled. Why, in a time of peace, are our men to be dragged from their homes and families and treated in this way? It seems that the idea prevails that men will volunteer. I don't believe a man will do so in Westmorland, for they are agriculturalists, and cannot afford to lose the time. They won't go, not because they are disloyal, but because they will not, except in prospect of war, agree to be drafted into a military camp against their will.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—I don't think my hon. colleague represents the whole people of Westmorland, although he seems to imagine that he, and he alone, does represent them. I think I have as much of the confidence of the people there as my hon. colleague; I have had some opportunity of knowing what their views are on various matters during the past few months, and I am prepared to say that

the people of Westmorland are willing to do what is best for the good of the country. I take the ground that it is necessary to have some power to enforce the law, and on that ground I wish the section to pass. My hon. colleague seems the only man who is really opposed to it, and he seems to be determined to oppose everything; he is the most querulous man I ever saw in my life. He says if the law pass the people of Westmorland won't stand it—I say that they are a law-abiding people and will. It will be for the House to determine which is correct. When they look at the position of affairs, to the fact that delegates have gone to England on a military mission, that our sister colony of Nova Scotia is alive to the necessity of having the militia placed on a good footing, I am sure the people of Westmorland as well as every other section of the Province, will yield a cheerful obedience to the provisions of the Bill. What object could the Government or the framer of the Bill have in view in the insertion of this section if not the good of the country?

Hon. Mr. WILMORE.—The hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. Gilbert) makes a great time about men being taken from their homes, but if a man does not want to go it is easy to find a substitute. I never yet saw the time when I could not get the services of a man for £3 10s. for twenty-eight days—that is fifty cents a day and his food, and this will be provided. No one need complain, for it will be easy to get substitutes at that rate, if a man's business is so that he cannot leave himself.

Mr. BORD.—I do not think that there will be any need to resort to the draft, as I believe there will be plenty of volunteers to form the camp. The only difficulty will be that there may be too many; the inducements to volunteer are so great, for I see by section 27 that "any militiaman serving in such company, either voluntarily or by draft, shall be exempt from similar services during the period of ten years." Such an offer as this was not made in old times, and I think no better plan could be adopted than by taking men out of class B to fill up the quota wanted for drill and exercise.

Hon. Mr. ALLEN.—The fact is, only some sixty or seventy men are wanted out of each Battalion of 1400 or 1500, and it is most probable that the full number will volunteer. If I imagined that this would be a meeting of young men bent on dissipation, I would not urge its passage, but if they think it will be a sorer, that they will be allowed to wander round the country and get as they please, they will be greatly mistaken. They will be under strict discipline, and I have no doubt will come out a better class of men than they go in. If I had not thought this, I would not have brought the Bill in.

Mr. GILBERT.—My hon. colleague has undertaken to catechize me for the action I see fit to take on this question. I believe in the right of private opinion. I accord to him what I require for myself, the right to think and speak freely, every man his own opinion. We have been of the same mind on this question in the past, but since the last election he has changed his views, not I believe because he has come into power, for he has shown his disinterestedness in this respect in the past, but from conscientious motives. I am opposed to making this affair compulsory, for the loss of the labor of 2000 men to the country is more than should be taken without something in equivalent.

Mr. ALLEN.—I believe if we cannot

send a few men to be drilled we should not talk so much about our loyalty.

Mr. CONNELL.—It seems that we have to provide a grant of \$30,000 for the Militia, and then to draft the men into the service. I am opposed to any man being seized and taken from his farm, or shop, or desk, and forced to be drilled for twenty-eight days, and I wish to enter my protest against allowing the Commander-in-Chief to take men thus, wasting the public money and demoralizing the habits of the young men of the country.

Mr. CUDLIP.—I should not have voted for the \$30,000 grant, if it had not been for Confederation, and I want that to go to the country for what it is worth. I do not believe in this part of the Bill any more than the hon. member for Carleton. I object to the draft, and if I had a son of eighteen who was drawn for camp, I would withhold it to the utmost of my power. No nation, at any time, has any right to adopt the system of drafting men for their armies. The people and papers of the United States protested against it, and showed how unfairly it bore in certain cases. In England if they want soldiers they pay for them; they never had a draft and never will; the people would not stand it.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—We must have some means to compel men to join the organization. In Canada, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, they have the compulsory draft, and what reason is there why we should not? If we want to maintain a Military Camp, how can we get along without some power to force them to come forward? I agree with my hon. friend from St. John, (Mr. Cudlip), that if it had not been for Confederation we need not have taken the steps we are now compelled to. There are secret influences at work to injure this country in the eyes of Great Britain, add to force upon us what we have rejected. They are at work in secret in Canada and Nova Scotia, and we must do something to counteract them. I put it to the hon. member for Carleton whether, if this grant had not been made, and if this Bill does not pass, Confederation would not be hastened? And to prevent this we must enter upon a complete Militia scheme, and to carry it out we must have some power to coerce those who are to bring it to it.

Mr. McMILLAN.—I am willing to go to the extent of \$30,000 for Militia purposes, not because I think it would be effective, for I do not think it can be so out of Confederation, where the whole force would be under one head, but I strongly object to the section that gives the power into the hands of the Commander-in-Chief to call them out. I do not think it should be done without the consent of his advisers.

Mr. NEEDHAM.—If I thought there was no good in the Bill I would not vote for it; and if I had thought the grant would be no good, I would not have voted for that; but this is the most extraordinary way to legislate that I ever heard of, voting for things that we don't believe in. Talk about coercion, I should like to see the law that is not coercion. I don't think any injury will arise from this exempt instruction, and I don't think there will be any need to draft; but if they won't volunteer, they must be coerced. Hon. members talk about this being a time of peace; but there is a saying old but true, "In times of peace prepare for war." And then I believe this camp will be of real service to young men. It will take them from the haunts of wickedness, that