Queensland

Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 1884

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 12 *November*, 1884.

Petitions.—Formal Motion.—Defence Bill—committee.—Messages from the Legislative Council.—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

Mr. FRASER presented a petition signed by 3,521 women of Queensland praying for the repeal of the Act for the Prevention of Contagious Diseases, and moved that it be read.

Question put and passed, and petition read by the Clerk.

On the motion of Mr. FRASER, the petition was received.

Mr. KATES presented a petition signed by 935 merchants, importers, traders, farmers, squatters, freeholders, selectors, timber merchants, and other residents of Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Stanthorpe, Allora, Warwick, Ipswich, and Brisbane, praying for the construction of a railway from Warwick to St. George; and moved that it be read.

Question put and passed, and petition read by the Clerk.

On the motion of Mr. KATES, the petition was received.

FORMAL MOTION.

The SPEAKER said: The hon. member for Port Curtis being now in his place may move the motion standing in his name, which was declared formal yesterday.

The following motion was put and passed:—

By Mr. NORTON—

That those of the papers connected with Mr. J. N. Menzies' selection on Mount Larcom Run, which are consecutively numbered, and which were laid on the table of the House by the Minister for Lands on 22nd July last, be printed.

DEFENCE BILL—COMMITTEE.

On the Order of the Day being read, the House went into Committee to further consider this Bill in detail.

On clause 23, as follows:—

"No officer or man of an active corps shall be permitted to retire therefrom in time of peace without giving to his commanding officer six months' notice, in writing, of his intention, unless the commandant shall see fit to dispense with such notice under special circumstances."

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that provision had not been made in the clause for circumstances that were sure to arise, such, for instance, as a man changing his place of residence. In a case of that sort the matter should not lie with the commandant. Supposing a man was working in Brisbane and was attached to a corps there, and he subsequently got work in Ipswich and wanted to reside there, why should it be in the power of the commandant to say, "You shall not"?

The PREMIER said there was nothing to prevent such a man being transferred to a corps in Ipswich. The only provision was that, having joined the force, he must remain a member of it for three years unless he gave six months' notice of his intention to retire. If a man removed to a place where it would be impossible for him to attend to his duties as a volunteer, it would not render him liable to any penalties. He thought it was a very useful provision. Of course, if it was harshly administered, great dissatisfaction might arise, but that could be put a stop to at once.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that of course he admitted that a difficulty arose, as was stated by the hon. member for Carnarvon, through the officers having very little power over the men; but he did not see any reason why they should now rush to the opposite extreme, and give unlimited power to the commandant. According to that clause a man could not go to any part of the colony he chose; he was entirely at the mercy of the commandant. Why should a man on going to another town not be able to demand his retirement from the force?

The PREMIER said that was provided for in clause 43, which stated that—

"Any man serving in the active force shall, at the expiration of his period of service, or on his leaving Queensland, or leaving the place where his corps is established, return to his commanding officer all articles of public property, or property of the corps which he has in his possession, and shall obtain a written discharge from the commanding officer."

So that a man on leaving the place where his corps was established had simply to give up his arms and ammunition, and would then obtain his discharge.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH asked whether he understood the Premier to say that the interpretation of the clause just quoted was that a man could demand his discharge?

The PREMIER: Yes; if he leaves the place.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said if that was so the interpretation did not appear to be consistent with clause 23, which made it optional for the commandant to give a man leave to go. According to the Premier's interpretation of the 43rd clause a man could get his discharge when he liked.

The PREMIER: On leaving the district.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 24—"Separate periods of service may be added together"—passed as printed.

On clause 25, as follows:—

"The Governor may make regulations for the enrolment of such horses as may be necessary for the purposes of batteries of field artillery, troops of cavalry, and companies of mounted infantry.

"A military train, and a medical staff, as well as commissariat, transport, hospital, and ambulance corps, may be formed whenever the exigencies of the service require it, at such places, in such manner, and of such strength, including the proper officers, as the Governor may direct."

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said he would like to know what was the object of the power which it was proposed by the clause to give the Governor in Council. Were horses to serve for three years? He never heard of such a power being given to the Governor or anybody else before.

The PREMIER said the clause meant that provision should be made to have a number of horses enrolled for service, so that on giving notice to the owners they might be available when required. At the present time, as the hon. member for Carnarvon knew very well, the horses obtained for the artillery were frequently not fit to draw the guns. No arrangement was made about getting them. The clause, however, would afford the means of enrolling and keeping a regular list of horses suitable for the service, which would always be available.

Mr. FOXTON said the 1st subsection of the clause was a very useful one, as it would enable the Governor to make regulations for the enrolment of such horses as might be necessary for the artillery service. From his experience, he could say say that the present arrangement for supplying field batteries with horses simply rendered that branch of the service perfectly useless. It did not matter how efficient the officers and men might be, they could be of no practical use while the existing arrangement for supplying them with horses was continued. At the present time it was customary to pay 15s. a day each for horses for the guns. The plan now proposed was not the one suggested by him twelve or eighteen months ago—which was to purchase the horses required. What he believed was intended, was to obtain the services of the owners of horses as well as the animals—say, men who had spring vans—and they would be employed as drivers for the artillery. By that method the artillery would be able to obtain a supply of horses at a more reasonable rate than at present, because the owners would be satisfied that the animals would not be knocked about, as they would be if not in their charge. No. 2 Battery at Ipswich had always been remarkable for the manner in which they performed their various field manœuvres, and the reason of that was that the drivers were accustomed to the horses, and the horses understood their word of command. It might not be in military language, but it was very effective, as the horses thoroughly understood it. The provision in that 25th clause enabling the Governor to enter into an arrangement to secure both drivers and horses was a very excellent one.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 26—"Disbanding corps"—passed as printed.

On clause 27, as follows:—

"Any man who has served in the defence force for a period of not less than three years may, at the expira-

tion of that period, be employed in any non-clerical department of the Public Service of the colony on fulfilling all requirements which would have to be fulfilled by other candidates for employment therein, and men who have so served shall have a prior claim to be appointed to any vacancy which may occur therein, over all other persons whatsoever.

"Any member of an existing corps who continues as a member of the defence force for a period of not less than two years from the passing of this Act may count his period of efficient service with an existing corps towards the period of three years in this section mentioned."

Mr. MACFARLANE said that when he spoke on the second reading he stated that he did not like the clause, and he was still of the same opinion. He did not like the idea of inducing people to join the permanent force with a view to a reward afterwards.

The PREMIER: It is a volunteer force, not a permanent force.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the clause would give anyone who had served three years a preferent claim to all positions in the Government service, except in the clerical departments. He thought it was a bad principle to hold out such inducements, as there was a certain class of persons or loafers who would be very glad to go through three years' service so as to get a Government appointment; and those people would have the preference, whether they were qualified or not. That was not dealing out equal justice to all classes. He did not like the exception which was made, putting the clerical department on a different footing from the others. He had no objection to the second part of the clause, but he objected to all the first part.

The PREMIER said that the clause was one of those which he had spoken of on the second reading as offering inducements to men to enter the force, so that they might have a sufficient number of drilled men in the colony to be available in time of need. He believed the privilege would be a very great inducement to men to do three years' efficient service as volunteers, and the more there were who had done that the more would be available when necessity arose. In the course of five or six years there would probably be 3,000 or 4,000 trained men in the colony.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that when the Commandant made his report, soon after his arrival in the colony, he said in very plain terms that the Volunteer Service had been subservient to almost every other branch of service in the colony, and that they were imposed upon by the Post Office Department, the Railway Department, and the Colonial Secretary's Department, and every other department in the State. Now, he was trying to retaliate, in the Bill, by making use of every other department to bolster up the volunteers. Why should a man, merely because he had behaved properly in the Volunteer Force, have the privilege of being appointed as a railway porter, for example—a position where his behaviour might be the very opposite? Let the rewards be given inside the department; there was no reason why they should impose on the other departments. Then again in the Police Force, if a man took a certain oath, he was to have preference when promotion took place. That was simply absurd. Not content with that, the Commandant next walked into the Railway Department, and wanted free passes for all volunteers in uniform.

The PREMIER: They always have had them when on duty.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that so long as he had anything to do with the railways they never had that privilege, and never should if he were in power again. Before the hon. member became Colonial Secretary, the only concession they got from the Railway Department was in the matter of special trains. Under the system as now proposed, a man had simply to put on his uniform and he could get a free pass over the Government railways. He thought that if any rewards were to be given at all they should be provided within the department without appealing to other departments. So far as clause 27 was concerned, almost the only non-clerical work in the Government departments, so far as he knew, was that done by lengthsmen on the railways, and railway porters. There could not be enough positions to provide for all volunteers, and the effect of the clause would be not to reward volunteers, but to set up claims that could never be satisfied. Why should they instil into men the hope of getting rewards of that kind? It would simply be leading them to expect great things which could never be fulfilled.

Mr. PALMER said that when he first saw the clause it struck him that three years' service in the defence force would be a very poor qualification to entitle a man to be placed over the heads of "all other persons whatsoever," as the clause read. A man might be incapable when he joined, and the three years' service would not put vigour or energy or principle into him. It was not fair to those in the service to promote an outsider over their heads, for no other merit than that he had served three years in the Volunteer Force. He agreed with what had been said by the hon. member for Ipswich, that the clause held out a premium to all the loafers in the colony.

Mr. FOXTON said he regarded the clause as a most valuable one, and for the reason that there were very few inducements at the present time for men to join the Volunteer Force. What benefit did they derive, he would ask anyone? The men were sneered and laughed at by a great many members of the community, and they seemed to be the butt in a great measure of the more unthinking portion of the people. As he had pointed out, the mere pay was small and trivial, and by no means a sufficient inducement to enable the Government to get good men. It was desirable to get good men, and it was desirable to make the Act work as cheaply as possible for the country. By the clause there was a means by which a strong inducement would be held out for good men to join the force; and at the same time it would not bring about any expenditure whatever, because when vacancies occurred they must be filled by somebody. He was quite satisfied that no man who had served three years in the Volunteer Force, under the Bill, would be the worse for that three years' service. There were many things a man would learn in three years. He would learn the value of discipline, for instance, and he (Mr. Foxton) was sure that that would be a very good recommendation for any man entering the service of the departments to which the clause particularly referred. No preference was given, such as had been drawn attention to by hon. members who had spoken; because a man, before he could be appointed, must fulfil all the requirements which would have to be fulfilled by other candidates for employment in the service. He must be as efficient as the man who was appointed at the present time; and he did not see why office-seekers should not be made to pass through a certain period of probation in the defence force before entering the Public Service. No doubt the working of the clause would interfere a good deal with political patronage. He could see that very clearly. Hon. members would not be troubled so much with applications for the use of their influence by certain individuals, and he thought they ought to be rather thankful to be relieved of that, although he thought there

were some who rather liked it. As regarded the question of railway passes, he would mention that it was a fact that for a very long time men were not allowed passes along the railways to attend their drills. He knew instances in which the men had actually paid more in fares than they received for attending drills. Now that was an absurdity. He understood that in New South Wales a volunteer going out to the butts which were along the railway line travelled free if he had his rifle only. He need not even be in uniform, so long as he stated he was a volunteer. No doubt he was subject to heavy penalties by the regulations if he made any misrepresentation; but such he believed was the fact. That was one of those inducements which ought to be held out for the purpose of getting good men to join the force. They desired to do the thing cheaply, yet it was now proposed, by omitting this clause, to deprive the force of one of the strongest inducements which could be held out; for, as he had already said, the pay was certainly not sufficient.

Mr. BEATTIE said the hon. member for Carnarvon looked on the clause as most valuable, but he would like to ask in what service the volunteers could be given the preference? The hon. member had also referred to the loss of influence, but he was sure no member of Parliament ever troubled a Minister about the appointment of a pick-and-shovel man, and it was only that sort of appointment which would be open. Take the Railway Department: he felt rather afraid of speaking about that department after the castigation he received some time ago, but that was not going to prevent him from speaking on either the Railway or any other department. What a ridiculous thing it would be to appoint those men to positions in the traffic department, when the men were liable at a moment's notice to be turned adrift by the immediate head of the department, who had also the power of taking on new hands in place of those he dismissed! That sort of thing was certainly not to the advantage of the country, and led more than anything else to the disorganisation of the department. Were the volunteers to be given a preference to appointment in a department of that kind, when they could be taken on one day and discharged on the next? Take the case of tradesmen, such as carpenters and engineers, who were, as a rule, educated men—engineers, especially, went through a course of education—yet they were deprived of taking anything in the shape of a clerical office. They were given the opportunity of accepting any non-clerical office. Did hon. members think that a tradesman was going into a Government department to get half the salary he had been earning? Let them see whether the clause was a real encouragement to the men he had mentioned to join the force. He looked upon it as nothing more or less than a subterfuge. Take for example a tradesman working at, say, Smellie's or Sutton's, or any of the various establishments in the different towns of the colony. He earned 10s. a day at his trade, and was a member of the force. After his three years' service he was told that he might join the Railway Department, as, perhaps, an under-porter at 30s. a week. That was what he (Mr. Beattie) called an Irish rise, and yet they talked about that being an incentive to men to join the force! He did not think it likely that the class of men they had at the present moment in the force would accept service under the particular clause they were discussing. He did not look at the question in the same light as the hon. member for Carnarvon at all. He did not believe the class of men they would get would be likely to accept such appointments as lengthsmen or porters, and those were the only non-clerical appointments in the Railway Department. Certainly they could be engaged in various harbours and rivers throughout the colony as boatmen, but such appointments would have to be held out as incentives to the men of the naval brigade, whose training qualified them for the work. He did not think the reward offered would be such a very great advantage to the volunteers; but he should like to see it stated in what particular branches of the service volunteers were to be placed.

Mr. BAILEY said the leader of the Opposition had hit the nail exactly on the head when he told the Committee in what branch of the Public Service those men would probably be employed. There were labourers and labourers—men who did a little work, but preferred to loaf if they got the chance; and those men, who were not really good labourers, would watch their chance, serve three years in the Volunteer Force, and then get appointed as lengthsmen. Hon. members might not know that lengthsmen were paid good wages and did not work long hours; but during those hours their work was of a really responsible nature, and none but good men ought to be employed upon it. The clause afforded a sneaking way by which men who were half loafers and half workers could get into the Railway Department; and he was confident that, all over the colony, and perhaps in his own district, there were men of that kind who would take advantage of the clause for the sole purpose of getting priority over other applicants for the position of lengthsmen on the railways. Attending drill for three years would not make a man a good lengthsman. In fact, it would not give him one single additional qualification for the post. Still he could see that men of the kind he had referred to would look ahead, join the volunteers, serve three years, and then get foisted upon the Railway Department in preference to much better men who did not happen to have been volunteers.

The PREMIER said hon. members were forgetting the words in the clause, "on fulfilling all requirements which would have to be filled by the candidates for employment therein." It was hardly likely that a loafer would serve three years as a volunteer, putting in his regular drills during the whole of that time, for the sake of a possible chance, at the end of that period, of being employed in some non-clerical branch of the Public Service. The clause was borrowed from the Victorian Act, and he himself thought it was a good one. Their object was to encourage volunteering, and to induce as many young men as possible to pass through the ranks. The clause simply gave the volunteer a preference, all other things being equal.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that if they offered a reward to the volunteers, and were unable to fulfil their promise, it would simply be one more grievance. The peculiarity of the reward offered by the clause was that the reward to a volunteer for good service would have to be paid by a department which did not appreciate those services. He should like to see Mr. Seymour's face when he was told that three years' service in the volunteers gave a man a preference to the post of a policeman; or that of the Commissioner of Railways when he was asked, for the same reason, to take a man on as engine-cleaner or railway porter. It was certain that none of the departments could possibly act on the theory of the clause. But he failed to see why a man, because he had served as a volunteer for three years, should take precedence over every other applicant for a non-clerical appointment in the Public Service; and with an energetic commandant the department might be filled with them.

The PREMIER: It would not be a bad thing if they were all volunteers.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: But it would be a bad thing if they were good volunteers, but bad lengthsmen, bad cleaners, and bad railway porters. It must not be forgotten that the volunteers were to receive pay; that even when they turned out to receive the Governor on the opening of Parliament they would receive a day's pay; and that was a very tangible part of the scheme of the Bill. The other reward was a certain preference to appointments in the non-clerical branches of the Public Service. Why alone non-clerical? Were not four out of five of the volunteers fit for the clerical branch? And yet it was proposed to give the reward only to those who could neither read nor write. As to the clause being borrowed from the Victorian Act, he failed to see that that was any recommendation for it; for it was well known that in Victoria they had the worst Volunteer Force and the worst Railway Department in the colonies.

Mr. SCOTT said it was quite possible that an unsteady man might appear sober at the eight or ten drills he would have to attend during the course of each of the three years he would have to serve as a volunteer, while being anything but a sober man in his ordinary course of life. Drinking might not make a man a worse soldier, but it would certainly make him a worse lengthsman, or a worse servant in any other branch of the Railway Department. The great defect he saw in the clause was that it would enable such a man to get into a responsible position in one of the Government departments.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that if the hon. member would read the last annual report of the Commandant he would find some information there. One of the principal appendices was a report from Surgeon-Major Thompson; he supposed it was given as one of the reasons why the camp at the Downs was a success. That report said:—

"I have the honour to report, with reference to the sanitary arrangements of the Easter encampment at Westbrook, that in my opinion they were satisfactory.

"The site of the camp was good; the position, on a gentle slope, being well chosen.

"The water was plentiful and of excellent quality; at first, the taste prejudiced a few against it, but it was used by all, and in no case could any evil effects be traced to it.

"The health of the men was particularly good, certainly very much better than at any previous camp. The only cases of sickness reported were a few of mild diarrhœa, and about a similar number of constipation. The very excellent health enjoyed I attribute largely to the fact that the camp was miles away from any public-house."

Mr. FOXTON said the hon. member for Leichhardt laboured under a great mistake if he thought the volunteers only turned out eight or ten times in the year. He would like to know what the volunteers would be fit for if their training was confined to eight or ten drills. Why, they had to go through three months' course of recruit drill to begin with. They had to be at it two nights in the week, for which they received 1s. 6d. a night, or something of that sort. But in order to be efficient, and to do their work properly, they had to do more work than that. The real hard work of volunteering was done at the weekly and bi-weekly drills, which the public did not see at all. The public saw the outside parades, for which the men were paid; but the hard work, the inconveniences which the men had to undergo, were experienced for two or three hours a night, in the drill-shed or yard, twice a week or oftener. Some hon. members did not seem to understand that it was that which really became irksome, and required men to have some degree of enthusiasm to induce them to devote so much time to it. He was quite sure that the occasions upon which men turned out as volunteers were just those upon which, if they were inclined to drink, they would do so. It was very thirsty work, and experience had shown that a man who was inclined to drink would do so then; unless, as Dr. Thompson very properly observed in reference to the encampment at Westbrook, the camp happened to be some distance from a public-house. Officers, therefore, had good opportunities for finding out whether men were steady or not.

Mr. NORTON said he believed the volunteers did a good deal more work than they got credit for, and that they went through a good deal of inconvenience. The present clause would, no doubt, to a certain extent, be an incentive to men to join the Volunteer Force, but in other respects he did not think it would operate well. Let them take the Railway Department for instance. At present the engine-drivers and guards were, as a whole, a very good lot of men indeed. As a rule, engine-drivers entered the service as cleaners; then they became firemen, and then drivers. Guards also generally started as porters. Thus the men went through certain grades and were trained. Many of them were now getting old, and they had families which had to be provided for. Why should not the sons of those men have the preference over others when there were vacancies in the Railway Department? Why should they be forced to become volunteers in order to obtain that preference? Men who belonged to the department ought to have every inducement to bring up their sons to follow the same calling, but, if the clause was passed, a volunteer who had served his three years would have the preference for employment. That would really be unfair to the men in the department, who—especially those in the lower grades—ought to be encouraged to look forward to being raised to higher grades as vacancies occurred. And not only they, but their sons also ought to have some encouragement to enter the service and follow the same line of business as their fathers. Then, again, men who had been disabled while at work might perhaps be fit for light work, and ought to be given employment as gatekeepers, or at other work that was not of an onerous nature. He believed the intention of the clause was good, but it would work badly, because it would destroy the chances for employment of men now in the Government service.

Mr. JORDAN said that some of the objections of the hon. member were no doubt valid. He thought that men in the department should have a prior claim over those outside; but to give volunteers a preference would be to give them a claim for employment over those who were already in the department. When there were vacancies persons occupying lower positions should be promoted, and then men who had been volunteers might receive the lower appointments. In other words, persons employed in the Government service should have the preference over strangers. The heads of some departments very properly filled vacancies by giving them to supernumeraries in the service. That was a recognition of the same principle that was proposed in the Bill. The volunteers who had served three years had been in the Government service to some extent. The preference might very naturally be given to them over persons who had never been in the Government service at all; and the very fact of their having served for three years as volunteers was a kind of guarantee that they were known to possess some qualifications at all events. The person who had to make the appointment—either the head of the department or the Government—would have to choose between the volunteer

and a man who was a stranger. He did not agree with the hon. member for Mulgrave in saying that the Commissioner of Police, for instance, would ridicule the claims of a person who had served as a volunteer for three years, if he had a vacancy in his department. He thought he would be very glad if he had to choose between a stranger and a man who had served three years successfully as a volunteer. They must keep in view the fact that the preference only would be given, all other things being equal, and the man possessed the necessary qualifications. For instance, one of the requirements was that he should be a sober man; he would have to show his antecedents to the person who was to employ him, and so with respect to other qualifications. He thought, therefore, the views of the hon. member for Ipswich would be met if the words "non-clerical" were left out. It had been said, with a great deal of reason, that young men who had served as volunteers were generally qualified by their education and training, and general acquirements, for clerical services; and why should they be debarred? The clause would go very well if the words "non-clerical" were left out. There would be no harm. It would raise expectations in the minds of young men in the service which would not often be realised; but at the same time it would do the young men no harm to remember that, if they served their time steadily for three years as volunteers, they would have a kind of preference if they could show equal qualification.

Mr. BAILEY said he thought the clause was a cruel satire upon the word "volunteer." What had the hon. member for Carnarvon told them? He said that if those volunteers met of an evening for drill they were paid 1s. 6d.; if they left their employment for a day they were paid 7s.; and of course their food was found, which was another 3s. Those men were called volunteers—men imbued with patriotic principles, and supposed to have some enthusiasm in them. They should drop that word "volunteers."

Mr. FOXTON: It is dropped in the Bill.

Mr. BAILEY said the word was very much used in the debate. They must understand that they were paying men to do certain work and they should pay them properly, and not in the miserable way laid down in the clause. If they could not excite patriotism or enthusiasm in any other way than by promising men appointments for which they were not fit, it was time they gave up the volunteer business. If they wanted fighting done they should employ men to do it, or else do it themselves. To call them volunteers, and pay them for every evening they spent in learning and for every day they were absent from their work—and when they did not care to continue as fighting men, to place them in situations over the heads of those who were more fitted for them—was absurd, and was a very false principle to bring into the Bill. He could very well understand that the volunteer corps got up in the towns contained men who belonged to neither one class nor the other, but half a labouring and half a loafing class. They would join the Volunteer Force for the special purpose of getting the billets promised in the clause, and it would be a very dangerous thing to appoint those men as lengthsmen on their railways. They wanted men who could do a good hour's work in an hour—responsible men; townsmen were not the men to do the work. They wanted good country labourers, and those were not the men they would find in the Volunteer Force. He trusted that the term "volunteer" would be dropped altogether; he was about full of it, and did not see any volunteering about the thing at all.

The PREMIER said that most of the objections raised were not objections to the clause at all, but to some clause which was supposed to be in the Bill. It was only a proposition that, other things being equal, the volunteer should have the preference.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: No, it is not.

The PREMIER: That is the proposition that is being discussed.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: It is not the clause either.

The PREMIER said that was how he read the clause. He did not think it was worth troubling about, and he would have said so before if he had had an opportunity. The Opposition had proceeded on an entirely mistaken ground, and he was prepared to let the clause go rather than retard the progress of the rest of the Bill. If they were all imbued with the same spirit as the hon. member for Wide Bay, it would certainly be the wisest thing to wipe out all military expenditure from the Estimates altogether, sit down, and do nothing. He hoped hon. members would not approach the matter in that spirit. They desired to make the best provision they could for their defence.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said the hon. the Premier made a remark when he sat down, in a spirit of anger, against one of his own men. He might say that the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for Wide Bay were the sentiments of one-half of his own side, and of a great many of the members of the Opposition. There were few who had not been disgusted with the way in which the Volunteer Force had been managed. He did not wish to reflect on the men or the officers; but many people in the colony thought it would be the best thing to let the whole matter drop until they had formulated their ideas, and knew exactly what they wanted. At the present time they did not know. He knew what Colonel French wanted; they saw it in the Bill; and a great deal of what he wanted, they ought not to give. The hon. Premier had cast a reflection upon one of his own followers who had spoken a sentiment which was very universal at the present time. It would be a very good thing not to spend another sixpence on the Volunteer Force; but lie by until they had matured their requirements.

Clause put and negatived.

Mr. BEATTIE said he was about to speak when the clause was declared carried.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that if the hon. member chose to object he could; the clause was not passed. The Chairman had no right to say so when an hon. member was speaking.

Mr. BEATTIE: Did I understand that the clause was passed?

The CHAIRMAN: It was negatived.

Mr. BEATTIE: Then I will not say anything. I wished to call your attention to the fact that I was on my feet before you put the question.

The CHAIRMAN: I put the clause more hastily because the Colonial Secretary intimated his consent to negativing the clause.

On clause 28, as follows:—

"In order to provide for the care and protection of forts, magazines, armaments, warlike stores, and other such service, and to secure the establishment of a school for military instruction in connection with the defence force, the Governor may raise, station, and maintain, in addition to the two thousand men hereinbefore limited, one battery of artillery, the whole strength of which shall not exceed one hundred and fifty men. The officers of this corps shall be appointed during pleasure, and the men shall be enlisted in the prescribed manner for periods of three years' continuous service.

"This corps, in addition to performing garrison and other duties, shall serve as a practical school of military instruction, by affording officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the defence force opportunities of study and training by joining the corps for such periods as may be prescribed.

"The officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of this corps, as well as the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men attached to it from time to time for instruction, shall, for purposes of discipline, be deemed to be called out for active service, and be subject to the laws and regulations which under the provisions of this Act apply to officers, non-commissioned officers, and men called out for such service."

The PREMIER said he wished to amend the clause by the omission of the words "in addition to the two thousand men hereinbefore mentioned" in the 5th line of the clause.

Amendment agreed to.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said he noticed that the clause provided that "the officers of this corps shall be appointed during pleasure." That was something new. It was not often they found that phraseology in a Bill. Was it intended to introduce a new class of engagement?

The PREMIER: All officers are appointed during pleasure.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said if that was so what was the use of saying it in the Bill? It looked like some fresh departure, and that was why he wished to have it explained.

The PREMIER said it was usual to make that distinction between the officers and men. The officers were appointed by the Governor during pleasure, and the men were enlisted. The clause followed the usual practice. It was nothing new.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH: What is the meaning of "during pleasure," then?

The PREMIER said it meant during the Governor's pleasure. It was the usual tenure of office for all officers in the army and navy and in the public service. He had to move an addition to the clause to provide for the enlistment of men engaged upon ships. It did not provide that those men should enlist for three years, because it might be found very inconvenient, The addition he proposed was as followed:—

"The Governor may also raise and maintain such and so many officers and seamen as may from time to time be required to man any armed ships or vessels belonging to Her Majesty's Colonial Government. The officers of such ships shall be appointed during pleasure, and the seamen shall be enlisted in the prescribed manner and for the prescribed period of service."

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said there were two or three matters connected with the clause to which he would like to refer. The first was that he did not think the House would be likely to agree to the permanent force proposed. He thought himself it was a good deal too high to commence with. He was referring now to the Estimates, and it would save time when they came to it in Committee of Supply. The force was to consist of 107 men, and the amount set down was £9,207. He thought they should commence on a much more modest scale. The next point was that some provision ought to be made for the Reformatory boys being engaged in the permanent force. There ought to be a clause in the Bill to provide a way of employing a certain number of those boys both on land and on sea. He did not know whether they had authority to employ them in that way at the present time, but they ought to be connected with the permanent force. He did not see anything better that they could be put to, than to employ them either on board the ships or in the fortifications, as a part of the permanent force. He believed the part they were now discussing was the best part of the Bill; at all events he believed it provided for that part of the defence force which he thought the present Commandant would be able to carry out to a successful issue. He would not have so much difficulty with that as with other arms of the force. Another thing, they had got the experience gained down in New South Wales to guide them in that matter, and a very lamentable experience it was. The cause of the evils that destroyed that force in New South Wales had, he thought, been made pretty apparent, and this colony could be guided by the experience gained. If they were to have any defence force in the country at all, they were bound to have a permanent force such as was provided for in the Bill. The parts of the Bill referring to volunteers generally could not be made so useful as that part of the Bill.

The PREMIER said he did not think it would be practicable to deal with the Reformatory boys in that Bill. He thought, however, that arrangements might be made for using their services in that way, and by sending them to sea. He believed that could be done at present by administration. It was very hard to say what to put them to, as they were not old enough to be enlisted, and it would entirely depend upon their character whether it would be desirable to enlist them. At the present time their services were used to a certain extent, and some of them were regularly at work on the fortifications at Lytton.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that while they were in the Reformatory he thought they could be made to do whatever was required of them; but that was not quite what he wanted. He wanted to give those boys a chance, some way or other in the permanent force of the colony, by actually enlisting them—that was, to relieve them from the sentences under which they were working, and give them a fair chance and start them in life. That, he thought, provided a capital chance. They ought to be looked after, and ought not to be turned adrift in the way they were turned adrift at the present time. The permanent force was one of the arms of the force in which they could be permanently utilised. That was why he called the attention of the Premier to the matter. He did not want to embarrass the working of the Bill, and he did not see himself that they could very well provide for it in the Bill; but he wished to see some power by which the services of those boys could be utilised, not as prisoners but as free boys.

Mr. BEATTIE said he was glad that matter had been brought up, and he was pleased with the answer given by the Premier. Some time ago he had himself mentioned the matter, and would again take the liberty of suggesting that it would be a good thing to utilise the services of those boys for the benefit of the country, and of themselves particularly, because it would be a great step towards making them of some advantage to the country, and enabling them to improve themselves and enter upon a more useful life. The last time he mentioned the matter to the Colonial Secretary, he suggested that application should be made to the Imperial Government for one of their old gun-brigs, which he believed could be easily obtained, and which could be fitted up as a training ship. It would not, however, be an expensive matter to buy one of those vessels which were occasionally offered for sale, and rig it up as a training ship. After the boys had received a course of instruction there they could be drafted into one of the gunboats, or any other of the various vessels belonging to the Government. He knew that, in the case of some boys who had nearly completed their sentences, the

inspector of the Reformatory had, with the consent of the Government, got them into vessels belonging to Queensland or into ships going to England. Those boys had turned out splendid men. A short time ago he read a letter from one of them who spoke in pleasing terms of the treatment he had received from the officers of the Reformatory, and of his own prospects. About two years ago he also saw a letter from a boy who had been brought up in the Reformatory in Sydney. In that case the writer was the mate of a vessel, and expected to be appointed commander of the ship next voyage. Those cases should encourage them to do all they could to make the Reformatory boys better and more useful members of society. As he had said, it would not be an expensive matter to procure a suitable vessel for a training ship; and, in his opinion, any Government who would introduce such a system as he had suggested would deserve well of the country.

Mr. PALMER said the clause under discussion made provision for a permanent force of 150 men. That opened up a great question. How would a permanent force carried on under the strict rules and regulations of the army be kept up? What treatment would the men receive, and what would be the expense of the force? With regard to the cost of its maintenance, he had no doubt that if a permanent force were established the prophecies of some hon. members would be verified when the cost was reckoned; and this opinion was confirmed by a debate in the New South Wales Parliament on the permanent force in that colony. That force was formed on a similar basis to that proposed to be adopted in Queensland, and he thought it would do no harm if he read a few extracts from the report of the debate referred to. The proceedings in connection with the force had been so scandalous that a report was called for. On that report being laid before the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Buchanan moved the following resolutions:—

"1. That, considering the extraordinary revelations contained in the papers lately laid before Parliament in reference to the permanent military force, in the opinion of this House that force should be disbanded and abolished with all convenient speed.

"2. That the above resolution be communicated by address to His Excellency the Governor."

A few of the questions put to the witnesses on whose evidence the report was based, and their answers, would show the Committee how a permanent force was likely to work in a colony like this where labour was so well paid for and men were scarce. The warship "Nelson," he believed, lost between 30 and 40 per cent. of her men in Sydney by desertion, and that might be taken as an illustration of what might be expected from men governed by strict army regulations in a country like Queensland. The following extract would give hon. members some information:—

"1. On what date was the present brigade of artillery formed?—No. 1 Battery, 2-8-71; No. 2 Battery, 22-8-76; No. 3 Battery, 19-6-77. 2. How many men have enlisted in its ranks up to the present date?—1,089. 3. How many still remain members of the brigade?—307. 4. How many desertions have taken place?—386. 5. How many deserters are still uncaptured?—308. 6. How many members have died?—12. 7. How many have been discharged as medically unfit?—37. 8. How many have been dismissed from the force for breaches of military regulations?—105. 9. How many courts-martial have been held up to date?—398. 10. How many courts of inquiry have sat in judgment on alleged misconduct of commissioned officers?—5. 11. How many non-commissioned officers have been reduced for military misconduct?—30. 12. How many members of the force have been prosecuted before the civilian criminal courts?—78. 13. What is the total cost (approximate) of the Permanent Force since the establishment of the present brigade?—£237,852."

That was an average of nearly £22,000 a year; and that force commenced with 100 men, being afterwards increased to 200, and later still to 300. Some of the punishments recorded against the men during their term of service were tremendous. Here was a sample:—

"Drunkenness and insubordination, 336 days' imprisonment, with hard labour.

"Drunkenness and absence, 126 days' imprisonment, with hard labour.

"Disgraceful conduct, 84 days' imprisonment, with hard labour."

As Mr. Taylor observed in his speech, the sentence for the last-mentioned offence was lower than was imposed for drunkenness and insubordination.

"Leaving his post, riotous in streets, 262 days' imprisonment, with hard labour."

For such an offence the speaker from whom he quoted said a civilian would probably be fined 20s.

"Disobedience of orders in being dressed in plain clothes in the streets, 42 days' imprisonment, with hard labour."

In all those cases the persons accused were convicted at a sort of private trial; there was no judge or jury in any case. He would particularly call attention to the circumstance that men were often sentenced to be imprisoned for 300, or 400, or 500 days, and were afterwards discharged. They might just as well have been dismissed in the first instance. Why should they take the trouble to keep the men in prison for two years, and then dismiss them ignominiously? He had just called attention to those facts in order to show what was the experience of New South Wales with their permanent force, and what might be the result of a similar experiment in Queensland.

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 29, as follows:—

"Men who have served in the permanent force for a period of three years or, with the approval of the Commandant, for any less period, and are certified by him as efficient, may be drafted into a permanent force reserve, and shall thereupon be attached to some corps of the active force established in the district or division in which they reside, and shall serve as ordinary members of such corps until called upon to rejoin the permanent force.

"Such men, in addition to their pay as ordinary members of the corps to which they are attached, shall receive such reserve pay as may be prescribed.

"If any man who retires from the permanent force goes to reside in any part of the colony not comprised in any district or division, he may nevertheless be drafted into the permanent force reserve, and shall be entitled to receive such reserve pay if he serves annually for not less than eight days with the permanent force, or with any other corps of the active force appointed by the commandant for that purpose.

"Men of the permanent force reserve shall, so long as they continue to receive such reserve pay, be bound to rejoin the permanent force at any time when called upon in the prescribed manner so to do."

In answer to Sir T. McILWRAITH,

The PREMIER said that the reserve pay would be a small annual fee, something like that paid to the Naval Reserve in England.

Mr. BEATTIE said he would point out that the permanent force simply directed its attention to one arm of defence—the artillery.

The PREMIER: And marine?

Mr. BEATTIE said he was glad to hear that. But none of the clauses made provision for giving a proper course of instruction to the infantry, except by their ordinary instructors. Clause 28 provided that—

"This corps, in addition to performing garrison and other duties, shall serve as a practical school of military instruction, by affording officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the defence force opportunities of study and training by joining the corps for such periods as may be prescribed."

Now, the whole of the permanent corps were artillery. He would ask the Colonial Secretary whether it was the intention of the Government to keep all those 107 men, besides the officers, down here as a school of instruction for all parts of the colony; because it was just possible that the volunteers in Townsville, Rockhampton, and Maryborough—places where there were no artillery corps—might require some instruction besides that they could obtain from their own instructors. It would be necessary to put some of them through a course of instruction which would enable them to handle large guns if required to do so. If it was intended to distribute the permanent force over all the parts of the colony where there were volunteers, 150 men would not be enough. He would simply call the Colonial Secretary's attention to the fact that the whole Bill was directed simply to the artillery force; the field men were not taken into consideration at all.

The PREMIER said they could only afford one permanent defence corps, and so they had to choose an artillery corps. They must have someone to man the big guns. There would be attached to the corps men competent to give instruction in all branches of the service. They could not afford to have a permanent company of infantry, another of cavalry, and so on.

Clause put and passed.

On clause 30, as follows:—

"All men who are hereafter engaged for service in the Police Force shall become members of the defence force, and may in case of any emergency be called upon by the Governor to serve in the active force, and shall thereupon become members of such force for as long a period as the Governor may direct, not exceeding that for which other men are enrolled for active service under the provisions of this Act. Every man hereafter engaged for service in the Police Force shall, at the time of his engagement, sign an agreement to the effect following:—

"I, A.B., hereby undertake to serve in the Queensland Active Defence Force, if called upon to do so by lawful authority, at any time during my service in the Queensland Police Force.

"Men now serving in the Police Force may sign the said agreement; and between men otherwise equally eligible for promotion or reward in the Police Force, when promotion or other reward is to be given, preference shall be given to a man who has signed the said agreement over a man who has not done so."

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said he did not see the use of the clause. There was no reason why they should make it a special merit on the part of a policeman to engage to serve in the active force, if necessary—if he was required they should make him serve.

The PREMIER said he thought the clause was a very proper one. Every man joining the Police Force should also be willing to become a volunteer, and be willing to perform military duty if necessary. If two men were equal in other respects, preference in case of promotion was to be given to the one who was also a volunteer; he was simply to have seniority, that was all. He would be a better man and a more efficient servant of the State. There was not the slightest doubt that the effect of the clause, if passed, would be that every man in the Police Force would sign the agreement.

Mr. BEATTIE asked whether, in the case of a policeman being called out on active service, he would lose his position as a policeman?

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. BEATTIE said his reason for asking was that, though the pay of a policeman was very small, the permanent soldier would get a great deal less. He was afraid the salary the permanent men were to get—3s. a day—would not induce the best men in the country to become soldiers. He should be sorry to see it interfere with the position of the Police Force, because that was one of the best forces they had in the colony. Its members all had to pass through a severe course of military training before they were considered fit for active service in the Police Force.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 31 and 32 passed as printed.

On clause 33, as follows:—

"No person shall be appointed an officer in the active force, except provisionally, until he has obtained a certificate of fitness from a board of officers of the active force, to be constituted as the Governor may appoint; or unless he had obtained a certificate of competency before the passing of this Act; and the regulations may prescribe conditions as to the qualifications of officers of different grades. The Governor may order the assembling of such boards as often as may be expedient, and may dispense with the conditions of this section in the case of men who have served as officers or non-commissioned officers in Her Majesty's regular army, or in an existing corps.

"In time of peace no person, except the commandant, shall hold higher rank in the defence force than that of lieutenant-colonel."

Mr. MACFARLANE asked if the Government could say who the board of examiners would be. It seemed that no one could be appointed an officer until he had been approved of by the board of examiners.

The PREMIER said the board of examiners would be appointed from time to time. He did not know who they would be, but they would be competent men, no doubt. The board would be like any other examining board, but they must be officers of the force, and would be chosen because they were specially competent to conduct examinations.

Mr. BEATTIE said he supposed any officer holding a position in the volunteers would have the necessary knowledge to enable him to be appointed a member of the examining board.

The PREMIER: Yes.

Mr. BEATTIE said he would like to see some other system adopted, because it was perfectly true that some of the officers at present in the force were incompetent, and could not pass an examination held by such men as Colonel French or Lieutenant-Colonel Blaxland.

The PREMIER: We cannot help that.

Mr. BEATTIE said they must have men of military training to instruct their volunteers and make them proficient. No man ought to occupy the position of officer unless he had undergone an examination.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said he would like to know what was the meaning of the second paragraph. What was the object of inserting such a provision? He had intended to ask a similar question when clause 31 passed, as to why the commandant should rank as colonel. He (Sir T. McIlwraith) did not see why he should not be a general. Why should they confine the gentleman's title in that way, and what was the use of it? Then, in the clause under discussion, they provided that no volunteer could hold a higher rank than lieutenant-colonel. He certainly thought the provision would act as a kind of damper to the aspiring young captains and others who wanted to become generals.

The PREMIER said there ought to be some limit, or otherwise there might perhaps be a certain number of men who would aspire to the rank of field-marshal, and others who would be equally anxious to become generals. In the present force there had sometimes been a few gentlemen holding the same rank. Then one was promoted. Then a year or two afterwards the others came forward and considered they had similar claims. They might as well say at once that they did not intend to let men get beyond a certain rank.

Mr. PALMER said that, seeing the force was to be so small, it might as well be composed of officers, with no one under the rank of major.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 34, 35, 36, and 37 passed as printed.

On clause 38, as follows :—

"Commissioned officers shall provide their own uniforms, arms, and accoutrements."

Mr. BEATTIE asked if that clause applied to officers of the permanent force?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Mr. BEATTIE said he did not know whether the salary the officers would receive would be sufficient for the purpose. The commissioned officers found their own clothing, but the non-commissioned officers were supplied by the Government. There was to be one brigade major at £400; one artillery staff officer at £400; and a sergeant instructor of gunnery at £180. The latter was a non-commissioned officer, but the others, with the commandant, supplied their own uniforms.

The PREMIER: All commissioned officers, staff officers, and the permanent force too.

Mr. BEATTIE said he was aware that volunteer officers had to find their own uniforms, and he had always thought it a very great hardship indeed. He knew some of the officers himself upon whom it had been a very serious drag, because when they had served in one rank they were promoted to a higher rank, and the expenditure was very heavy. It was a very great drain upon the officers, and he agreed with the hon. member for Carnarvon, when he said last night that officers must be in a position that would enable them to incur the expenditure necessary to get a full-dress uniform. That would debar many really good men from becoming officers. He should like to see some assistance given even to officers in purchasing their full-dress uniforms.

Clause put and passed.

On clause 39, as follows :—

"The arms and accoutrements of the officers and men of the active force shall be such as the Governor shall from time to time direct; and no such arms and accoutrements of the men shall be left in their possession except by special authority of the commanding officer."

Mr. NORTON said that under the Bill a much larger supply of arms, necessitating a much larger expenditure for that purpose, would be required than the colony possessed at present. Had any extra provisions been made with that object?

The PREMIER replied that he fully recognised the fact that more arms would be wanted, and that there ought to be a reserve stock. He was under the impression that there were some rifles on the way out, but they had as many as were required at present.

Clause put and passed.

On clause 40, as follows :—

"The value of all such articles of public property as may become deficient or damaged while in possession of any corps, otherwise than through fair wear and tear, or unavoidable accident, may be recovered by the commandant or any other person authorised by him, from the commanding officer, who shall be personally liable therefor, unless he can prove that the loss occurred without any negligence on his part.

"The value of any such articles of public property or property of any corps as have become deficient or damaged while in possession of the corps, otherwise than through fair wear and tear or unavoidable accident, may be recovered by the commanding officer from the officer, man, or men by whom such deficiency or damage was occasioned, and the commanding officer shall not be personally liable except as aforesaid."

The Hon. Sir T. McILWRAITH said the commanding officer was made personally responsible for all Government property, and by clause 42 was ordered to find safe keeping for all arms, accoutrements, and equipment. But the commanding officer could not find money for "suitable buildings" for the purpose beyond what was actually voted on the Estimates, and he could not see why the whole of the responsibility should be thrown upon him.

The PREMIER said it would be the duty of the Government to find the proper accommodation; and that being the case, he did not think the commanding officer would object to take the responsibility.

Clause put and passed.

On clause 41, as follows :—

"The several corps established, or hereafter to be established, shall be supplied with uniform clothing of such colour, pattern, and design as may be prescribed for each arm of the service."

Mr. BEATTIE said he would remind the Premier that at one time every captain of every corps of volunteers throughout the colony was responsible to the Commandant for the expenditure on his particular company, and it gave rise to a spirit of emulation amongst them which resulted in nothing but good. The captains took care that their men were properly clothed, and had all the other appliances necessary to the welfare of their companies. Afterwards, a change came over the authorities, and a brigade order was issued to the effect that all money received from the Government for volunteer purposes should go through the Brigade Office. That was the first thing which brought the Volunteer Force and the Brigade Office into antagonism—an antagonism which had since destroyed all *esprit de corps*, and had led to the present unsatisfactory condition of the service. He hoped there would be a return—at all events, to some extent—to the former system, and then he doubted not that volunteering would again become as popular as ever.

The PREMIER said it was proposed to allow each captain of a company a certain control over the expenditure on his corps.

Mr. BEATTIE said he was pleased to hear the Premier's reply, and felt satisfied on that point.

Clause put and passed.

On clause 42—"Arms and accoutrements, safe keeping and allowance for care of"—

Mr. PALMER said he supposed that under the Bill the Government would have power to call out all the male population of the colony for defence purposes; but it would be quite useless to do that unless there were arms for them. Did the Government propose to find arms? It would be too late to start hunting for rifles when danger was at hand.

The PREMIER said the hon. member could not have heard the answer he had just given to the hon. member for Port Curtis. The matter had received the attention of the Cabinet, and it was proposed to make considerable additions to the supply of arms.

The Hon. Sir T. McILWRAITH asked whether provision had been made for that on the Estimates-in-Chief?

The PREMIER said there were enough arms for present purposes. There was no sum specially put down for rifles; it was proposed to keep a considerable number of arms in reserve.

Mr. NORTON said he noticed that the commanding officer, at the discretion of the Governor in Council, was to be allowed a sum annually for the care of arms. Would it not be better that the money should be voted?

The PREMIER said that, under the 88th clause, all moneys would have to be voted by Parliament.

Clause put and passed.

On clause 43—"Men leaving corps or Queensland to return clothing, etc."—

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH asked under what clause it was that a man was prevented taking the clothing with him if he left the colony?

The PREMIER said that if a man took his clothes or arms out of the colony, of course they were lost to the colony. If he made away with them in the colony that might be stealing, and he would be liable to a penalty of £5; but that would not prevent him being indicted and punished for any greater offence if the facts amounted to a greater offence.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 44, 45, and 46 passed as printed.

On clause 47, as follows:—

"1. The Governor may order the officers and men of the active force, or any portion thereof, to be trained and drilled for a period not exceeding sixteen days nor less than eight days in each year, at such time and places and in such manner as he may think fit; and for each day's drill every officer and man shall receive the prescribed pay of his rank.

"2. All sums of money required to defray any expense under the foregoing provisions may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

"3. The Governor may order the active force or any corps thereof to assemble in a camp, fort, or other place for continuous drill and training, for a period of not less than eight days in each year (which period is included in the sixteen days hereinbefore mentioned); and when so ordered to assemble the force or corps shall be considered to be on active service during the whole of the period for which they are called out, and all ranks shall receive rations and shelter in addition to their daily pay.

"In such cases the daily pay shall be for each day of twenty-four hours, and the drill and duty to be performed in camp, or in going to and from the camp, shall be as ordered by the officer commanding for the time being."

The PREMIER moved that the following words be inserted after "place" in line 5, page 11:—"And in the case of the marine force, in a vessel, or vessels, which may be ordered beyond the waters of the colony."

Amendment put and passed.

The PREMIER said there were two verbal amendments necessary at the end of the clause. He moved that the words "or on shipboard" be inserted after the word "camp" in the 13th line.

Amendment agreed to.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the words "or ship" were inserted after the word "camp" in the 14th line.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that was the clause that provided for the payment of volunteers. Clauses 56, 57, and 58 provided for the different times when they might be called out—times of danger and emergency—and clause 60 provided that they "should be paid at the prescribed rates." In fact, every time the volunteers were called out they would be paid the amount prescribed. What was the object of the words "for each day of twenty-four hours"; did it contemplate making provision for half-days and quarter-days?

The PREMIER said that was the intention. It was not intended that they should receive a whole day's pay if they were only called out for a short time. If the men were not present during the whole of the eight days' continuous drill they would not be paid the full amount.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 48—"Conditions of payment"—passed as printed.

On clause 49, as follows:—

"The Governor may, from time to time, appoint competent persons to instruct and drill the force, and may award such remuneration therefor as he may think fit."

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that in that clause they were departing from the usual practice. The appointment and payment of drill instructors usually lay with the Parliament.

The PREMIER said the 88th clause provided that all amounts were to be voted by Parliament Still, he thought the latter end of the clause was better out, and he moved that all the words after the word "force" be omitted.

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 50, as follows:—

"The officers and men of any corps who reside within two miles of a place appointed for drill, may assemble, or be ordered out, by the commanding officer for drill or exercise at such other times than those appointed for performing the drills hereinbefore specified as may be prescribed, and shall not be entitled to receive any pay therefor."

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said the clause provided for exceptional drills. Clause 47 provided that there should be a maximum of sixteen drills, and a minimum of eight. Where did clause 50 come in? It was indefinite. The men might be ordered out to drill, without pay, after the eighth day.

The PREMIER said the clause did not refer to a general drill ordered by the Governor but to a commanding officer's drills, when he might call out his own men.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH asked what would be the result if the men did not come when they were ordered out?

The PREMIER said that would be dealt with in the regulations

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 51 and 52—"Power to dispense with drill and training in any year," and "Inspection"—passed as printed.

On clause 53, as follows:—

"At or as near as may be to the head-quarters of every corps there may be provided a rifle range with suitable butts, targets, and other necessary appliances; and the Governor in Council may order such land as may be necessary for the same to be taken under the provisions of the Public Works Lands Resumption Act of 1878, and may direct to be stopped, at such time as may be necessary during the target practice of any corps, the traffic on any roads (not being mail roads) that cross the line of fire, and may make regulations for conducting target practice and registering the results thereof, and for the safety of the public, and may by the regulations impose penalties for wilful damage to any such butts, targets, and appliances.

"All such ranges shall be subject to inspection and approval before being used.

"The owners of private property shall be compensated for any actual damage that may accrue to their respective properties from the use of any such rifle range.

"All drill sheds, rifle ranges, and butts heretofore constructed or reserved shall be and are hereby vested in the commandant for the time being, notwithstanding any deed or other instrument now affecting the same and inconsistent with the provisions of this enactment."

Mr. BEATTIE asked whether the Government had considered the desirability of making an alteration in the present rifle range in Brisbane?

The PREMIER said the matter had not been brought under the notice of the Government.

Mr. BEATTIE said he would point out that the present rifle range was situated between a portion of land that had been reserved for a residence for the Governor and a portion set apart as a public reserve, and known as Victoria Park. The latter portion had been vested in

trustees as a permanent reserve for the benefit of the people of Brisbane, but he did not think the trustees had yet commenced to make any extensive improvements in the park. Everyone acquainted with the locality knew that the Sandgate Railway ran through the centre of the park, and that the land on the southern side of the line, extending from Bowen Bridge road up to the butts, was used by the volunteers as a place for rifle practice. The portion at the southern and western end extending to the Kelvin Grove road was set apart for a residence for the Governor. He believed that there were not so many objections at the present time as there were formerly to the range being situated there. At one time, however, he had heard many complaints from people living at the Oval, and, he understood, as far as Red Hill, to the effect that recruits who were not accustomed to handle a rifle used to go out to practice, and that very often they sent bullets over to the Kelvin Grove road, and even southward of that. There was another complaint he had heard—and he would here remark that he was simply giving the Committee information that he had received from different sources—and that was that the range was too close to the hospital. He had been told that in summer time men were practising at the range at a very early hour, popping away from daylight until 8 o'clock; and a gentleman who took a warm interest in the hospital was of opinion that that was not advantageous to the patients in the institution. He must acknowledge that the position was a very convenient one for the volunteers; but, while he did not wish to see them inconvenienced in any way, he must say that, personally, he would like to see the range removed, and he hoped the matter would be taken into consideration by the Colonial Secretary. If the land now used as a range were placed under the control of the trustees of the other part of the reserve, he had no doubt that they would be able to make extensive improvements on it, and so beautify the park that it would become a popular place of resort for the people of Brisbane.

The PREMIER said he had not had his attention called to the matter before, but he would make inquiries on the subject; and if a convenient place could be found elsewhere the range might be removed.

Mr. JORDAN said the question of rifle ranges was perhaps a rather difficult one. It was difficult to make proper provision for ranges without inconveniencing the people in any way. There was power given by that clause to resume land for rifle ranges, and he dared say that was quite necessary; but he saw that there was also power to stop traffic on any road that crossed the line of fire at any range. That might prove very inconvenient sometimes unless very great discretion was exercised in stopping public traffic on roads leading from agricultural districts into town. It seemed to him that that provision was unnecessary, and that the power it conferred might be exercised very injuriously, and to the great inconvenience of settlers near towns. Could they not amend the clause by some such provision as this—"Provided that the line of fire shall not be permitted across any surveyed road"? He did not think that there could be any great difficulty in so arranging the rifle ranges that the line of fire should not cross any surveyed road.

The PREMIER said if no surveyed road was to be crossed by the line of fire there would be a great difficulty in many places of getting a range at all. There were surveyed roads in all sorts of places. He thought the power contained in the clause might be entrusted to the Government. When artillery practice was going on at Lytton the captains of ships had the good sense themselves to keep out of the line of fire. Of course, in the case of target practice across a road a flag would be set up notifying the danger so as to stop persons from wilfully running in the way of the bullets.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said he did not think the clause gave too much power to the Government. He thought the words in the parenthesis, "(not being mail roads,)" should be struck out, as almost all the roads in the colony were mail roads. If anything, the clause gave too little power to the Government, who were bound to look after the safety of the public.

The PREMIER said he agreed with the hon. gentleman that the words he had indicated should be omitted.

Mr. BEATTIE said he was quite satisfied that the Government required a great deal of authority, and that the matter ought to be left to their discretion. What he wanted to bring under the notice of the Colonial Secretary was the position of the Victoria Park trustees. He did not know whether or not the rifle range was included in their trust. If it were so included, he presumed the volunteer authorities made arrangements with them. If it were not included, it prevented the trustees from making many very desirable alterations. He believed the park could be made one of the handsomest places round about Brisbane; and it was a very great blessing to residents in the city. Perhaps the hon. the Colonial Secretary could inform the Committee whether the rifle range was included in the Victoria Park trust.

The PREMIER said he did not know. He moved the omission of the words "(not being mail roads)."

Mr. MIDGLEY said the hon. member for South Brisbane (Mr. Jordan) had called attention to a real danger. He thought they should omit not only the words in the parenthesis, but the whole provision making it possible for men engaged in practice to fire across roads, stopping traffic and endangering life. Surely there was plenty of room in the country for rifle ranges without interfering with traffic and putting life in danger.

Mr. ALAND said there would be some force in the hon. member's argument if the practices were to take place all day, and every day; but it struck him they would only take place now and again, so that there would not be any very great inconvenience. Besides, there could only be a few rifle ranges in the colony; they were not to be innumerable. Then again, it would be very difficult to get the long stretch of land required for a range without crossing a road.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that the object of the clause was not, as the hon. member for Fassifern seemed to suppose, to enable the authorities to endanger the lives of the public, but to provide for the public safety. The clause was indispensable.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he thought it would be far better that rifle ranges should be established a little further away, even if it were more inconvenient for the volunteers, than that the safety of the public should be endangered. He did not think business should be suspended for the sake of rifle practice. It might stop a man from getting to market entirely. The 3rd subsection provided for compensation to the owner of private property for any damage resulting from the use of the rifle range; but a man might have a better claim for damages through being delayed half-a-day on his way to market, than one who had his property injured by persons engaged at rifle

practice. He did not think they should pander so much to military despotism as to shut up the public roads of the colony to meet the convenience of a few persons. There was no reason why they should not go a little further away, and get a place where they would not require to fire across roads. He did not like the clause, and wished to see it altered.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. BEATTIE said he would again draw the Colonial Secretary's attention to the last paragraph of the clause, which he thought would interfere with the present trustees of Victoria Park :—

"All drill sheds, rifle ranges, and butts heretofore constructed or reserved shall be and are hereby vested in the commandant for the time being, notwithstanding any deed or other instrument now affecting the same, and inconsistent with the provisions of this enactment."

He would get back to what he had said before, and would ask whether the present rifle range in Victoria Park was a portion of the land vested in trustees for the benefit of the people of the city of Brisbane? If it were, according to the clause, the Commandant might take possession of it in spite of the fact that it was vested in trustees.

The PREMIER said no doubt the clause would take away some land from the trustees, and he did not know that the latter part of it was necessary. He had called attention to it himself, and he thought the Government might be left to provide rifle ranges where necessary. The question would be left more flexible by the omission of the last paragraph of the clause, and he moved that it be omitted.

Amendment agreed to ; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 54, as follows :—

"The Governor may sanction the organisation of rifle corps or clubs, and of associations for purposes of drill, under such conditions as may be prescribed, and may provide arms and ammunition for them ; but such corps, clubs, or associations, shall not be provided with clothing or receive any allowance therefor."

The PREMIER said he would move that the clause, as read, stand part of the Bill, but he proposed to omit the proviso. It might be found advisable to provide an allowance for clothing for clubs and associations, and there was not sufficient reason for tying up the power of Parliament to make an allowance if it was necessary. He moved the omission of all the words after the word "them" on the 4th line of the clause.

Mr. PALMER said in the clause providing for rifle and other associations there was a germ that might be developed into something of great significance. Whatever volunteers and artillery might do, very valuable aid might be obtained from riflemen trained as bush marksmen. It was just possible that military men might look with contempt on such a force ; but if anyone would recall the operations in the Transvaal, he would not depreciate the services of bush marksmen. In a colony like this, where every man might become a marksman, it would be dangerous for an enemy to land. He would find himself, at all events, in an uncomfortable position ; and with the natural accomplishment of riding, which most of the youths of the colony possessed, a force such as he had spoken of might be converted into mounted riflemen. If, in addition to being expert shots, they were a mounted force, Queenslanders would give a very good account of themselves when they were called upon to defend the colony. He believed, if local contributions were supplemented in some manner by public contributions, rifle-shooting would meet with a great deal of local favour in the different parts of the colony.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said the clause was one of the most important in the Bill, as the hon. member for Burke had said ; and it was a pity to limit the formation of rifle associations, because they would be really the only volunteer forces in the colony ; and that was the only part of the Bill in which the subject was referred to specifically. The only thing the clause said was that the Governor might sanction the formation of rifle corps ; but their organisation was left to be dealt with by the regulations formulated by the Brigade Office. More attention should have been given to the subject, because there were several points dealt with in the Act of 1878 which the Bill neglected. There was no doubt they had to look forward to the time when the assistance of rifle corps would form the most important part of our colonial defence. They had to look to the volunteers for the defence of the colony instead of to the permanent force. There were a good many points requiring consideration at that stage ; but he did not know whether it would be necessary that a separate Act should be introduced. The conditions under which rifle corps would be allowed to act was set forth at some length in the Act of 1878 ; and he thought more should be said upon the subject than merely that the Governor might accept the services of a rifle club. It was certainly a pity that the subject had not received further consideration, as it was the beginning of a system, the development of which would form a very important part of the defences of the country.

The PREMIER said the reason why the subject was dealt with only in a small way was because the arrangement was entirely tentative. They did not know the form that the associations or clubs might take, but he had reason to anticipate that there would be a great many of them. Such corps would very likely wear some uniform, but their business was to become good marksmen, and they ought to be encouraged by liberal grants for prizes. The exact way in which they would develop he did not know at present ; and it was thought advisable to leave the subject open at the present time. The men belonging to the associations or clubs would not be liable to compulsory service ; they would be simply a volunteer force ; but the country would reap an advantage in having so many trained marksmen in the colony who would probably be the first to volunteer to fill up the ranks. It was thought better to leave the question indefinite in order to see how it would work ; and he expected within the next few weeks or months to receive applications for the organisation of many clubs of the kind mentioned. What would be the most convenient way to organise those clubs would develop itself afterwards, but as it was intended that they should be entirely voluntary it was not proposed just now to prescribe any rigid conditions affecting them. It was not because the subject was not considered that it was left indefinite, but because it was thought better to leave it indefinite.

Mr. NORTON said he believed the clause was likely to be of great use, and that clubs of the kind contemplated would be formed in nearly every district. As far as marksmanship was concerned, he believed that marsupial-shooting was better practice than firing at a target.

Amendment agreed to ; and clause, as amended, passed.

Clause 55—"Arms for public schools"—passed as printed.

On clause 56, as follows :—

"The active force, or any corps thereof, shall be liable to be called out for active service with their arms and ammunition, in aid of the civil power, in any case in which a riot, disturbance of the peace, or other

emergency requiring such service occurs, or is, in the opinion of the civil authorities hereinafter mentioned, anticipated as likely to occur, and (in either case) to be beyond the powers of the civil authorities to suppress, or to prevent or deal with, whether such riot, disturbance, or other emergency occurs, or is so anticipated, within or without the district or division in which the corps is raised or organised.

"It shall be the duty of the senior combatant officer of the active force present at any locality to call out the same or such portion thereof as he considers necessary for the purpose of preventing or suppressing any such actual or anticipated riot or disturbance, or for the purpose of meeting and dealing with any such emergency as aforesaid, when thereunto required in writing by the police magistrate, or by any three magistrates of whom the mayor or other chief officer of the municipality in which such riot, disturbance, or other emergency occurs, or is anticipated as aforesaid, is one; and to obey such instructions as may be lawfully given to him by any magistrate in regard to the suppression of any such actual riot or disturbance, or in regard to the anticipation of such riot or disturbance, or other emergency, or to the suppression of the same, or to the aid to be given to the civil power in case of any such riot, disturbance, or other emergency.

"Every such requisition in writing shall express on the face thereof the actual occurrence of a riot, disturbance, or emergency, or the anticipation thereof, requiring such service of the active force in aid of the civil power for the suppression thereof.

"Every officer and man of the defence force so called out shall, on every such occasion, obey the orders of the officer under whose orders he shall be; and the officers and men, when so called out, shall, without any further or other appointment, and without taking any oath of special office, be special constables, and shall be considered to act as such as long as they remain so called out; but they shall act only as a military body, and shall be individually liable to obey the orders of their officer only."

Mr. NORTON asked what was the meaning of the term "senior combatant officer"?

The PREMIER replied that the term meant the senior officer on the active list, and not on the retired list—one who was not merely an honorary officer.

Mr. FOXTON said the senior officer might be a surgeon, or the chaplain general, or somebody else who had nothing whatever to do with the fighting.

The PREMIER said he was much obliged to the hon. member for his correction. His (the Premier's) definition was not quite a correct one.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that, according to the clause as printed, it was the duty of the senior combatant officer to call out the force when requisitioned to do so by the police magistrate, or by any three magistrates of whom the mayor of a municipality might be one. Was it judicious to place such a power as that in the hands of the police magistrate alone? Why should not he be backed up in his requisition to the senior combatant officer by two other magistrates?

The PREMIER said he quite fell in with the objection, and moved that the words, "the police magistrate or by" in the 2nd paragraph be omitted, with the view of inserting, after the word "whom" in the next line, the words "the police magistrate or."

Mr. NORTON said he would call attention to what took place in New South Wales. A great riot occurred at Lambing Flat, where there was no police magistrate, and the disturbance was so great that volunteers had to be sent down from Sydney.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: There were no volunteers, either.

The PREMIER: Where there is no police magistrate, there will not be many volunteers to call out.

Mr. BEATTIE said he was glad the Premier had announced his intention to alter the clause. It was not very complimentary to the mayor of a city to say that he required two magistrates with himself to make him equal to a police magistrate. It was customary in Great Britain, in the event of a riot, for the mayor, as chief magistrate, to requisition the military authorities for help in putting it down.

Amendment agreed to.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said the clause went on to provide that the senior combatant officer should "obey such instructions as may be lawfully given to him by any magistrate." Would it not be better to place the senior combatant officer under the instructions of the police magistrate or the mayor?

The PREMIER said the point had also struck him, and he was just about to call attention to it when the hon. gentleman anticipated him. It would be advisable, after the three magistrates had united in requisitioning the troops, to leave the instructions to the senior combatant officer in the hands of the police magistrate or mayor. If left with more than one, they might differ as to what should be done. He moved the omission of the words "any magistrate," with the view of inserting the words "the police magistrate, or mayor, or other chief officer."

Amendment agreed to.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said he did not understand the latter part of the clause. When the men were called out they were to be special constables, and in that capacity they were to act as a military body. He did not understand what special constables acting as a military body were, nor how they were to be individually liable to obey the orders of their officer only.

The PREMIER said it would be rather hard to define all the functions of special constables. Of course constables had a great many functions in preserving peace; and the calling out of the defence force was for the purpose of preserving civil order. It was therefore intended that they should have all the powers of special constables, but they were only to obey the orders of their own officers.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said he thought it would be better to leave out the words "they shall act only as a military body."

The PREMIER: I have no objection, if you will move it.

Mr. BEATTIE said that if the volunteers were called out to quell a riot it was not likely that they would take their instructions from either the mayor or anyone else except their own officer. The mayor or magistrate might think it desirable to fire into the crowd, while the officer might see no necessity for it. He would be cooler in times of difficulty than an individual who had had no experience of such things. The clause, he thought, was plain enough.

The PREMIER said that the hon. member for Mulgrave had suggested that the words "act only as a military body" had no particular meaning. If the hon. member desired, he would move their omission.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: I do not care about it.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 57, as follows:—

"The senior combatant officer in any district or division, or the commanding officer of any corps, or in his absence the senior combatant officer of the corps who may be present, may, upon any sudden emergency of invasion, or imminent danger thereof, call out the whole or any part of the force within his command, until the pleasure of the Governor is known; and the men so called out shall obey all such orders as the officer under whose orders they shall be may give, and proceed to such place within or without the district or division as he may direct."

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH asked what was the meaning of the words "emergency of invasion"? He supposed they meant an invasion, or did they mean a threatened invasion? He understood the word "invasion," but he did not understand "emergency of invasion."

The PREMIER said the words were right enough. If a number of fillibusters landed on the coast, that would be a "sudden emergency of invasion," or there might be an imminent danger of their doing so.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said the clause provided that the men were to obey the orders of the senior combatant officer; but supposing they did not, what did the Bill provide for that?

The PREMIER said that, in such a case, the men would be liable to punishment. Under the 63rd section they would be deserters.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said, did nothing happen except under that section? If a man was called out, and he absented himself without leave for more than seven days, then he was tried by court-martial as a deserter. Was that all the Bill provided?

The PREMIER said it was; and he did not know how it could do any more. They could not make a man come.

Mr. BEATTIE said that according to the clause "the men so called out shall obey all such orders as the officer under whose orders they shall be may give." That was after they had been called out. If they refused to obey orders after they were called out they would be liable to be tried under the clause referring to martial law. Clause 63 would not apply to that.

Mr. FOXTON said clause 61 provided for that.

Clause put and passed.

On clause 58, as follows:—

"The Governor may call out the defence force, or any part thereof, for active service either within or without the colony, at any time, when it appears advisable so to do by reason of war or invasion, or danger of either; and the active force may then be increased to any required extent beyond the limit hereinbefore specified.

"The Governor may, from time to time, direct the furnishing by any district or division of such number of men as may be required, either for reliefs or to fill vacancies in corps on active service.

"Whenever the defence force or any part thereof is called out for actual service by reason of war or invasion, the Governor may place them under the orders of the commander of Her Majesty's regular forces in Queensland or any other place where the force is required to serve, or under the orders of any other officer then in command of the forces of any other of the Australasian colonies.

"The active force or any corps thereof, or any part of a corps, shall also be liable to be called out for active service, with their arms and ammunition, under the regulations, to act as guards of honour, or escorts, or to fire salutes in any of the following cases:—

(*a*) The opening or closing of any session of the Parliament of Queensland;

(*b*) For the purpose of attending, at any public ceremonial, the Governor, or any member of the Royal Family while in the colony."

The PREMIER said that he explained, on the second reading of the Bill, the reason for the words "either within or without the colony." It might be necessary sometimes to move the forces over the border. He wished to amend the 1st paragraph by omitting the words "beyond the limit hereinbefore specified."

Amendment agreed to.

The PREMIER said he had given notice of two amendments in the 3rd paragraph of the clause. He proposed to omit the word "forces" in the 23rd line, and insert the words "naval or land forces as the case may be."

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that was a very comprehensive clause, and provided for the duties of the volunteers attending public ceremonials such as the opening of Parliament, and that the Governor might place them under the orders of Her Majesty's regular forces in Queensland or any other place where the force was required to serve. That was a tremendous power, and as it was a great deal more than had been given in any of their Volunteer Acts before, he did not think it ought to be passed by without comment. He believed that if the Committee had the slightest idea that the forces would be sent out to Western Australia, for instance, they would strike out the clause. He did not think that such extensive powers ought to be given. Why, the men might be sent to Canada, or to quell an insurrection in Ireland. He did not see the use of making the clause so very wide; it was the first federal clause he had seen, and was a great step towards federation; but he thought they should stop at Australasia.

The PREMIER said that of course the clause would apply more to the marine forces. The men might be shipped on board one of the gunboats and sent to New Guinea, or it might be necessary to send a garrison to defend New Guinea. It was a most useful provision; still, of course, it was possible that the men might be sent, as the hon. member said, to Ireland or Canada. He had no objection to limit it to Australasia.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said he did not object to the clause as it was. The first use the force would be put to would be to eradicate some of the pests that threatened them from the neighbouring islands. They had had notice that Bismarck had instructed a Hamburg firm to establish a coaling station in New Ireland, which would be dangerous to Queensland. However, he supposed that, so long as the hon. member for Rosewood treated him civilly, Bismarck would not be very rough on them. But the clause had better stand as it was; they might not always be on such good terms.

Amendment agreed to.

On the motion of the PREMIER, a similar amendment was made in the last line of the subsection.

Mr. PALMER said the clause gave the Governor power to call out the defence force of the colony in case of necessity. If that authority was necessary, no doubt the Governor would do it thoroughly, and he would have them out regardless of expense. He would, no doubt, say, "Hang the expense; we will have them out!" What he wished to know, however, was, how was the extra expense which would necessarily be entailed in such an event to be provided for? What would become of their £30,000 in such a case as that? Where was an emergency of that kind provided for?

The PREMIER: In section 60.

Mr. NORTON said clause 60 did not provide for it.

The PREMIER said that if ever they were called upon to defend themselves Parliament would have to find the money. And if they did not find the money to defend themselves they would have to find probably a great deal more to pay as indemnity.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 59, as follows:—

"In time of war or otherwise, when the defence force is called out for actual service under the provisions of this Act, no man shall be required to serve in the field continuously for a longer period than one year; but any man who volunteers to serve for the war or for any longer period than one year shall be compelled to fulfil his engagement; and the Governor may, in cases of unavoidable necessity (of which necessity the Governor shall be the sole judge), call upon any man to continue to serve beyond his one year's service in the field, for any period not exceeding six months."

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said he scarcely thought the clause was necessary. At all events, if it was necessary to provide for a war in Queensland lasting longer than twelve months, he did not see the use of putting in the limit for which a man might have to serve beyond that time of six months. The clause said that "the Governor may, in cases of unavoidable necessity (of which the Governor shall be the sole judge), call upon any man to continue to serve beyond his one year's service in the field for any period not exceeding six months." He ought to have the power of extending it indefinitely. They called out the men and voted the money, and they would be there until the war was over. If the clause was of any use at all the limitation "for any period not exceeding six months was unnecessary." What was meant he supposed was that the people of the colony should be called upon equitably to serve the country—that the Governor would not call out the people of Ipswich without the Townsville people being also called out. At the same time there was no use in providing for such a contingency as that without striking out the limitation he referred to. The power given should be indefinite.

The PREMIER said he thought the power might safely be left in the hands of the Governor.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: I am proposing to leave it in his hands, and to give him more.

The PREMIER said that was what he said—the power might be left to the Governor. The point was that a certain number of men would be called out—it was quite impossible that the whole population would be called out—not more than a third perhaps, would be called out at one time; and after one lot of men had done a year's service it was only fair that some other fellows should have a chance, and that the survivors of the first year's campaign should be free. He proposed that the words "for any period not exceeding six months" be omitted.

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 60, as follows:—

"Whenever the defence force, or any part or corps thereof, is called out for active service, the officers and men so called out shall be paid at the prescribed rates, and in default of any rates being so prescribed, then at such rates of daily pay as are paid to officers and men of the relative and corresponding grade in Her Majesty's service.

"Such pay, and reasonable cost of transport to and from any place where the services of the force are required, may be paid by order of the Governor in Council out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland."

Mr. BEATTIE said he saw that the clause provided, in case of war, that the Governor should have power to call out every individual to serve his country. It would be all right if he could so arrange it as to call out as many unmarried men as possible. If that were done the rate of remuneration would probably be quite sufficient.

The PREMIER: It is provided that they shall be called out first.

Mr. BEATTIE said the fact was that in case of a sudden emergency they would call out anybody they could get. They would not take the trouble to wait for unmarried men; and he did not see why married men with families should be left to the mercy of anybody. The remuneration they would get would be very little—2s. 3d. a day, or, if the rate was not prescribed, it would be about 1s. 1d. a day. According to the schedule it would be 2s. 3d. a day if the man was a gunner; but that was not a large amount for an individual to receive, even if he had nobody but himself to support. He did not think that the provision made for those who were to fight the battles of their country was excessive, particularly if they happened to be married men with families.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said the Bill seemed to treat the Treasury in a rather unceremonious manner, and he would like to see the Colonial Treasurer a little more alive to the interests of his department. The 2nd paragraph of the clause before the Committee provided that—

"Such pay, and the reasonable cost of transport to and from any place where the services of the force are required, may be paid by order of the Governor in Council out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland."

There was a similar provision in previous clauses, but he need not refer to them; that was the usual form. The 88th clause said that—

"All sums of money required to defray any expense authorised by this Act may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund; but no sum of money shall be so paid unless it be included in some appropriation made by Parliament; and a detailed account of moneys so expended shall be laid before Parliament during the next session thereof."

Those were clumsy clauses, and were not in accordance with the practice of Parliament in this colony; because they assumed that Parliament would vote a certain amount in a lump sum and leave it to the Government to spend, and afterwards furnish an account to the House. What he objected to was that, in framing the clauses, it appeared to be supposed that Parliament would vote a lump sum for a certain purpose, the details of which were to be managed by the Governor in Council, who was afterwards to submit the details to the House. That was not their practice, and he thought the clause should read thus: that the money might be paid by order of the Governor in Council "out of the money appropriated for that purpose." He questioned very much whether, under the clause as it stood, the Governor in Council would not be justified in drawing money out of the consolidated revenue in spite of the fact that it had not been appropriated to the specific purpose to which it was devoted. The ambiguity arose from the fact that the Bill had been made to suit a different set of circumstances altogether, in which it was left to the Governor in Council to determine the particular direction in which the money should be expended.

The PREMIER said the fact was that they could do very well without the 2nd paragraph of the clause. The hon. gentleman was wrong in supposing that the Bill was framed to suit different circumstances to those found in this colony; it had been materially altered to suit their circumstances, and in that part especially. The 2nd paragraph was really unnecessary, because the matter with which it dealt was sufficiently provided for in the Audit Act and in clause 88 of the Bill. He therefore moved that it be omitted.

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

On clause 61, as follows:—

"The active force shall be subject to the Queen's regulations and orders for the army; and every officer and man of the force shall, from the time of being called out for active service, and also during the periods of annual drill or training, under the provisions of this Act, and also during any drill or parade of his corps at which he may be present in the ranks or as a spectator, and also when going to or from the place of drill or parade of his corps, and also at any other time while in the uniform of his corps, be subject to the Army Act and all other laws then applicable to Her Majesty's troops in Queensland and not inconsistent with this Act, except that no man shall be subject to any corporal punishment except death or imprisonment for any contravention

of such laws; and except also that the regulations may prescribe that any provisions of the said laws or regulations shall not apply to the defence force.

"Any officer or man charged with any offence committed while serving in the force shall be liable to be tried by court-martial, and if convicted, to be punished therefor; and such liability shall continue during the whole period of his service, and during six months after he is discharged from the force or after the corps to which he belongs or belonged is relieved from active service, notwithstanding that he has been so discharged, or that the corps to which he belonged has been so relieved from active service; and any officer or man of the force may be tried for the crime of desertion at any time without reference to the length of time which has elapsed since his desertion."

The PREMIER moved that the words "on land" be inserted after the word "shall" in the 1st line, and said he thought that so long as a force was on land it should be subject to the regulations and orders of the army. When it was afloat it would be dealt with under the Naval Discipline Act. But it would be inconvenient to have one part of a force on shore working under the Army Regulations while the other part was subject to a different law. He also proposed to insert a new paragraph after the 1st, dealing with the marine force.

Amendment agreed to.

On the motion of the PREMIER, a consequential amendment was made in the 3rd line of the clause.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said he did not know how the clause would work. It seemed very simple on paper. It was easy enough to provide that as soon as men stepped ashore they should be subject to the provisions of the Army Act, but he thought that before a man could walk according to the provisions of that statute he ought to understand them, and naval forces were not supposed to know anything about the Army Act.

The PREMIER said it would be very absurd if the naval men were to be under naval law when they became a land force, and the army was to work under two different laws. It was therefore thought to be more convenient to provide that while on shore they should all be subject to the provisions of the Army Act.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said he did not know anything about the Naval Discipline Act; but he thought it would be far more simple to provide that seamen should be subject to the provisions of that Act when on shore as well as at sea. If they passed the clause as proposed they would be enacting an absurdity.

The PREMIER said those who had considered the matter were of a different opinion. When on shore the men would be acting as soldiers, and there was no reason why they should be under different rules from the men with whom they were working side by side.

Mr. BEATTIE said he could understand the provision if the men were subject to the same drill; but the drill was very different. He should like to see the Colonial Secretary on board a smart frigate when the men were at drill. When those men went on shore it was generally to handle big guns, for they were men who had the necessary knowledge. They would not commit the mistake that was made at Lytton two years ago, when a lady narrowly escaped being killed in consequence of a gun jumping off the platform. No sailor would do a thing of that kind; it was only a soldier who would do such a thing.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: Was that done under the Army Act?

Mr. BEATTIE: That was done under the Army Act. The fact of the matter was that the platform was too short, and when the eminent lady who fired the gun went to pull the trigger, she stepped on one side, and the gun went off the platform. If the sailors were fetched ashore they would instruct the soldiers how to place guns on platforms, besides putting them up to a few more wrinkles.

Mr. FOXTON said he thought the hon. gentleman who had just spoken was labouring under a delusion. It was not a question of the drill of soldiers and sailors, but one of offences and their punishment, and the maintenance of discipline. As to his strictures on the army, he might tell the hon. gentleman that not long ago the artillery volunteers when at Sandgate demonstrated their ability to hold their own against the best men in the navy.

The PREMIER said it was simply proposed to adopt the Imperial system, by which the marines were under the Army Act when on shore, and under the Navy Act when afloat.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that put the matter in a new light. It seemed that sailors when on shore were to be under the Army Act.

The PREMIER: Marines.

Mr. BEATTIE: Marines are not bluejackets.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said they were providing that as soon as sailors came on shore they would be under the Army Act. The Premier had consulted Colonel French, who, of course, said it was all right. But Colonel French would see no difficulty in putting members of Parliament under either the Army or the Navy Act, and Colonel—no, not colonel yet—the hon. member for Carnarvon would do so without the slightest hesitation. They wanted some information, however, as to how the clause would work. It looked very nice on paper, but he thought the whole thing was a downright absurdity. The Navy Act was part of a sailor's religion—it was the sailor's bible—and to put them under a different religion, as it were, as soon as they came ashore, would be an unnecessary and probably a harsh provision. What was a breach of discipline under one Act might be no breach of another Act; yet it was proposed that men who were acting under the Navy Act should be brought under the restrictions of the Army Act as soon as they landed at Lytton or in Brisbane. It was not fair, after considering the matter five minutes, and only consulting a man connected with the army—a man who was anxious to make the force all army men—to treat the men who were to form the naval force in the manner proposed. They were only making a hash of the clause.

The PREMIER said that the men would be at sea only 12 days out of the 365; they would be on shore the rest of the time.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: Our naval defence force?

The PREMIER: In time of peace, of course.

Mr. FOXTON said that if they applied the Naval Discipline Act to the forces acting on land they would make a hash of it, because then they would have to bring the ships on land too. He did not know much about that Act, but it struck him that it would be scarcely applicable to forces acting on land.

The HON. R. B. SHERIDAN said that, in 1861, sailors landed in China and fought well under military discipline, and he presumed they could do the same in Queensland when necessity arose. He could not see why there should be two kinds of discipline for the same kind of service. If soldiers were on a ship they would be under naval discipline, and if sailors came ashore they would be under military discipline.

Mr. BEATTIE said that was perfectly true as far as it went, but the hon. gentleman did not tell the Committee that the men were under their own officers when fighting in conjunction with soldiers. But the soldiers having command of the position generally put the sailors where most fighting was to be done; the sailors were put where there was any difficulty to overcome. He was rather surprised to hear the Colonial Secretary say that the naval men would be engaged only 12 days out of the 365.

The PREMIER: Only 12 days actually afloat.

Mr. BEATTIE: Were they to have men of the naval reserve at so much a month? and were the ships to lie in the Brisbane River, or elsewhere, unprotected for the remainder of the year? He hoped that they would be manned, and that they would be able to do something advantageous to the colony—that they would form the nucleus of a defence force which would be of some service. Let hon. members consider what a long time it would take to get steam up and go to the assistance of a ship in distress unless the vessels were properly manned! Those vessels ought to be ready for all cases of emergency; and he believed that the colony might receive great benefit from them in such cases.

Mr. SALKELD said that, as he was not an authority on either military or naval matters, he would like to ask whether there was any necessity to enforce the provisions of the Army Act, not only while a man was on active service, but also "during the periods of annual drill or training, under the provisions of this Act, and also during any drill or parade of his corps at which he may be present in the ranks or as a spectator, and also when going to or from the place of drill or parade of his corps"? He did not know that many men would enlist under the Bill if it became law, but a great proportion of them would know nothing at all about the Army Act. The clause seemed to be giving the court-martial a great deal of power. He confessed he did not like the Bill at all. The only thing about it that seemed certain to him was that it would cost a great deal more money than the colony had been spending on volunteers, and that probably in three or four years they would have to find some other system, perhaps still more expensive. If they could not get a system of volunteering it was a very poor case for the colony. He believed the attempts to form a volunteer force had been spoilt by the muddling of officers. They had never had very good officers, and there had been a good deal of bungling, which was likely to go on. They would provide a lot of officers and pay them high salaries, and then the whole thing would end in smoke.

The PREMIER said it was absolutely necessary that while men were at drill or in camp they should be under military discipline, in order that they might learn to work together and obey orders, so as to be fit for actual service. The reproach of the Volunteer Force hitherto had been that there was no discipline.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that the difficulty he referred to in clause 61 arose from the way in which the Bill had been treated by the Committee. Every clause in the Bill referred exclusively to a land force, and they were trying to alter them so as to suit a naval force also. Some clauses might incidentally be applicable to a naval force. But they were very few. It was just as necessary to define the laws to which the naval force should be subject, as those by which the land force was to be regulated; but they had no provision for it, and he thought that no amount of ingenuity would make clause 61 applicable both to the navy and the army. It was simply absurd to make sailors, when they came ashore, liable to the provisions of the Army Act. The very fact that a Navy Act was requisite in England for the conduct of the force when on shore showed the necessity for some similar provision here.

The PREMIER said that in considering the matter they had two courses from which to choose—to adopt the naval system either as applied to marines or as applied to seamen. After careful consideration it was thought best to deal with the naval forces as marines; that seemed the most convenient plan. He proposed now to omit the 2nd paragraph, which would be better as a new clause.

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, put and passed.

The PREMIER proposed to insert the following new clause after the clause last passed:—

Every officer and man of the active marine force shall, from the time of being called out for active service afloat, and also during the periods of annual drill or training afloat, under the provisions of this Act, be subject to the Naval Discipline Act and all other laws then applicable to Her Majesty's naval forces in Queensland, and not inconsistent with this Act, except that no man shall be subject to any corporal punishment except death or imprisonment for any contravention of such laws; and except also that the regulations may prescribe that any provisions of the said laws shall not apply to the defence force.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH asked whether the Premier had said that this system of providing for a naval and military defence force had been tried in some other part of the world, and had succeeded?

The PREMIER said he had not said that, but he could not see any reason why it should not succeed. All the provisions of the Bill were applicable to a naval force. The provisions for raising the forces were the same, and also the provisions for discipline, for the mode of pay, for holding courts-martial, and for every other purpose. There was no difficulty that he could see, and the only difference was the way in which the force was governed when at sea or land.

Question put and passed.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the following new clause was inserted after the last clause, as passed:—

Any officer or man charged with any offence committed while serving in the force shall be liable to be tried by court-martial, and if convicted to be punished therefor; and such liability shall continue during the whole period of his service, and during six months after he is discharged from the force, or after the corps to which he belongs or belonged is relieved from active service, notwithstanding that he has been so discharged or that the corps to which he belonged has been so relieved from active service; and any officer or man of the force may be tried for the crime of desertion at any time without reference to the length of time which has elapsed since his desertion.

Clause 62 passed as printed.

On clause 63, as follows:—

"Any member of the force who, when called out for active service, absents himself without leave from his corps for a longer period than seven days, may be tried by court-martial as a deserter."

Mr. BAILEY asked what was the punishment to which a man absenting himself for seven days was liable as a deserter? He had heard that death was the punishment, and, if that was so, the clause was one that should not be passed in a moment.

The PREMIER said the punishment for desertion depended upon the circumstances. For desertion to the enemy the penalty was death; but desertion might be treated as absence without leave, and the offender would be fined or imprisoned, perhaps, for a day. It all

depended upon the circumstances of the case, and it must be borne in mind that any punishment could only be inflicted with the approval of the Governor. When sentences were passed by a court-martial they must be approved by him.

Mr. BAILEY said he was not under that impression, and had thought that a court-martial pronounced a sentence and carried it out. At any rate, they were bringing in a law very much higher than the present laws. They found a series of offences invented and a number of penal offences enacted, and now they were providing for a punishment which might amount to death. He really did not see where the Governor came in at all, as the Premier had said he did : and they should be quite sure that there was some check upon those court-martial gentlemen. He should be very sorry that the people of Queensland should be at the mercy of Colonel French and two or three lieutenants.

Mr. SALKELD said he found by the 70th clause that the Governor might convene courts-martial, and had power to mitigate a sentence. According to that clause also, the Governor could delegate his power to the officers in charge at the time. If that was so, then the men were in the hands of the court-martial.

The PREMIER : Look at the 72nd section.

Mr. SALKELD said the clause should be made more definite. A man might not be able to be present in seven days, yet he would be handed over to the mercy of those military officers. He certainly thought that would not go down with the public.

Mr. BAILEY said clauses 70 and 72 were contradictory. Clause 70 gave the Governor power to delegate his authority—the very power he objected to—and then the court-martial might sentence a man to death, and carry out the sentence. Why, that was a ridiculous power! He did not believe in such a system of drumhead justice in Queensland. Clause 72 provided that no sentence of a court-martial could be carried into effect without the approval of the Governor; but then clause 70 gave him power to delegate his authority to the drumhead business. They had surely not dropped down to that sort of thing yet in Queensland, and he hoped the clauses would be amended in some way or other.

Mr. MACFARLANE asked if he understood the Premier to say that, for desertion in face of the enemy, a man could be ordered to be shot?

The PREMIER : Desertion to the enemy.

Mr. MACFARLANE said he had not understood that.

The PREMIER said his attention had been called to the inconsistency between the two clauses, and he proposed to amend them. He did not think any sentence should be carried into effect without the direct approval of the Governor.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH : Not the minor offences?

The PREMIER said there might be some trivial offences which could be excepted ; but on the whole he thought all punishments should be subject to the approval of the Governor.

Mr. FOXTON said it was necessary that the Governor should be able to delegate his power of approving of some of the sentences. If a man was sentenced, for instance, to be kept in confinement, it might happen that the Governor was at one end of the colony while the sentence was pronounced at the other. A fortnight or three weeks would elapse before the sentence was confirmed, and in the meantime the culprit would be allowed to go where he chose.

Mr. BAILEY said that all the powers given to the Governor in clause 72 were more than done away with by clause 70, which enabled him to delegate all his functions with regard to courts-martial. In that case a court-martial might order a man to be shot, and see that the sentence was at once carried into execution. He strongly objected to that sort of discipline. Queensland was too young for it yet, and would not submit to it until she had got a little more Prussianised. He would not entrust the lives of members of the force to the tender mercies of a court-martial, who, acting in irritation or on the spur of the moment, might try a man without giving him a fair chance to defend himself.

Mr. SALKELD said the proposal to try men by court-martial was the beginning of a kind of military despotism. They valued their lives and liberties more than anything else, and only allowed them to be interfered with by regularly constituted courts, and trial by jury. That system might prevail on the continent of Europe, but they did not want it in Queensland.

Mr. PALMER said that if the hon. member's arguments were carried out they would result in the force about to be created becoming like the force which they were now engaged in sweeping away. What was the use of calling out men for active service if there were no means whereby offenders amongst them might be punished? The hon. member for Carnarvon had pointed out that one great weakness of the existing law was that it did not provide for the punishment of offenders. It was no use calling men out as soldiers, and then playing with them.

Mr. FOXTON said the hon. member for Ipswich stated that it would be an arbitrary act if it gave power to try men by court-martial, and that there was a strong feeling amongst the public against it. But it was a matter which did not affect the public at all. As to trial by jury, no doubt the people of Great Britain were as much enamoured of it as they were; but at the same time the people of Great Britain deemed it necessary to deal with military offences in a different way.

Mr. ANNEAR said the hon. member for Ipswich was dealing with the Bill as if it were a Volunteer Bill, whereas there was only one volunteer clause in it—the 54th. The Bill was a Permanent Force Bill, and no doubt in time it would result in a standing army. Hon. members talked as if there was no military ardour amongst Queenslanders, and as if, when an enemy appeared off the coast, they would sit down quietly and let them land. His opinion was that Australians would be able to give a good account of any enemy who might show himself. They would be something like the Americans, who, with a population of 50,000,000, and a standing army of only 30,000, got hundreds of thousands of fighting men together in a few months when they were wanted, and disbanded them when there was no further occasion for their services. There was just as much spirit among Australians as there was at that time in the United States. The hon. member for Fortitude Valley seemed to think that sailors should do nothing but fight on board ships ; but at the bombardment of Alexandria the sailors, after having done everything necessary on board the ships, were sent to do service on shore, they having previously learnt infantry drill.

Mr. SALKELD said that both the hon. member for Burke and the hon. member for Carnarvon had overshot the mark. All that he desired to point out was that it was possible a man might be prevented from turning out, and that there ought to be some provision for reasonable excuse.

Mr. BLACK said he was not surprised at the hon. member for Maryborough getting a little mixed over the Bill. He thought the whole Committee were rather in a fog about it. It appeared to have outstripped the intention of its framers. The hon. and gallant member for Carnarvon had undoubtedly thrown a good deal of light on the military portion of the Bill ; but a naval force had been added, and they had not yet been given to understand who was going to "boss" that.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS : Beattie !

Mr. BLACK said that according to the 31st clause—

"There shall be appointed an officer, to be styled the 'Commandant of the Queensland Defence Force,' who shall be charged, under the order of the Governor, with the military command and discipline of the defence force, and who, while holding such appointment, shall have the rank of colonel in the defence force."

The defence force, he supposed, meant the army and navy. He did not know what was customary in other warlike countries, but he had never heard of a colonel commanding the military and the navy as well. He thought it would be necessary to recommit the Bill, so that the Committee might decide what was to be the title of the gentleman who was going to command the navy, or whether it was really expected that the military officer should be competent to take charge of the navy. He did not think that was ever contemplated. It was time some of the ridiculous things in the Bill were clearly understood, or that the Government withdrew it for the purpose of introducing something practicable, instead of wasting the time of the Committee, as had been done that night.

Mr. BAILEY said he objected to the clause because it invented the punishment of death for a novel crime. A man was liable to be tried by court-martial as a deserter. Under the Bill, the powers given to the Governor in Council could be delegated to a court-martial ; and that court-martial could inflict the punishment of death.

The PREMIER : Certainly not.

Mr. BAILEY said he thought it could for desertion. However, he did not like the clause. He did not like that mention of a new offence ; nor did he like such arbitrary powers being given to a court-martial, of which they knew nothing at present. It would be time enough to do that in two or three years' time.

The PREMIER said he had already indicated that he proposed to amend clauses 70 and 72. He would point out that a court-martial might inflict a fine of 5s. The punishment would be according to degree. In the case of a man who omitted to attend drill, the punishment would be of a light character, but if it was a very serious offence, the punishment of course would be severe.

Mr. BAILEY said that so long as there was some higher authority than the court-martial he had no objection to the clause.

Mr. BLACK said he would like to ask whether the colonel was to have command of the navy.

The PREMIER said it was proposed that the colonel-commandant should be in charge of the defence force, but he would not, of course, practically have command of the navy. They did not propose to create an admiral. They proposed to do what was done in many countries—in England, for instance, at one time—namely, to place the whole force under the command of one officer for the present. When it became necessary that a separate officer should command the navy they would create one.

Clause put and passed.

On clause 64, as follows :—

"When any officer or man is killed in active service or dies from wounds or disease contracted on active service, provision shall be made for his wife and family out of the public funds.

"All cases of permanent disability, arising from injuries received or illness contracted on active service, shall be reported on by a medical board, and compensation awarded, in the prescribed manner ; and any medical practitioner who signs a false certificate in any such case shall incur a penalty of one hundred pounds."

Mr. FOXTON said he would call attention to what appeared to be a curious mistake. When he first read the marginal note—"Provision for men killed"—he thought the clause provided for cremation or something of that sort ; but on reading the clause he saw that it was to make provision for the wives and families of men who were killed.

Mr. NORTON asked how the provision was to be decided ?

The PREMIER : By Parliament.

Mr. NORTON said that surely every case would not have to be brought before Parliament. If there was any fighting, every case could not be brought in that way.

The PREMIER said he was not in a position to say what would be done in case of war. That depended very much on their means. Supposing 1,000 men were killed, what would be done would depend very much on whether the country had to pay an indemnity or not. He was quite sure the State would always recognise its obligations ; but it was quite impossible to say now in detail what would be the best mode of dealing with the matter.

Mr. ANNEAR asked whether the calling out for annual drill would be considered active service ?

The PREMIER : Yes.

Mr. MACFARLANE said the clause was rather alarming to him. Supposing the whole force was commanded to meet the Russians and it was destroyed, what was to become of the colony ? If the clause was carried, there should be another clause introduced to compel all volunteers, on joining the force, to have their lives insured. They might require to pay a large premium ; but it would be necessary. The leader of the Opposition, during the discussion, had referred to the Bill as "Bismarckian," and he thought it was scarcely that ; there was more "Frenchism" than anything else—too much of it for Queenslanders. Even although they had passed sixty clauses of the Bill, he would prefer to see the whole thing thrown into the waste-paper basket, and another Bill brought in next year in a more modified form.

Mr. SALKELD said he presumed the clause would meet cases similar to that mentioned by the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, where a gun rebounded from the platform, and might have killed the lady who fired it. Suppose a man who was drunk broke his neck by falling from a horse, was the clause intended to meet such cases as that ?

The PREMIER said a distinction would be made between men killed by their own fault, and men killed in active service.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that, as the clause stood, if some delicate youth were caught in a shower of rain and died from the effect of a cold, the Government would have to provide for his wife and family. That was going a little too far. The intention was that they should provide for the wives and families of men who were killed in active service in the time of war. The wives of all the men who died while they were volunteers would say that their husbands

had contracted the diseases that killed them through being volunteers. The clause was not intended to apply to cases of that sort.

The PREMIER said he wished to know how they could draw the distinction. The matter would have to be left to Parliament.

Mr. JORDAN said he knew of a case which he would mention, and he hoped that the clause would cover all such cases. It was the case of a Mr. Walker, who lost both his hands thirteen years ago whilst firing a salute from the battery in Ipswich. The poor man had suffered severely during the last thirteen years, and had been receiving the very small pittance of £100 a year, on which he had to keep a wife and family. He hoped the clause would cover such cases as that, as well as to persons injured in time of war.

The PREMIER said the clause would cover cases of that sort. The one the hon. gentleman referred to had been dealt with by a sum put on the Estimates.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 65—"Exemption from tolls"—put and passed.

On clause 66—"Free conveyance by railway"—

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that such a power as was proposed in the clause had never been granted to a defence force before, and he considered it inadvisable that it should be given. Volunteers had been trying for years to obtain the right to a free passage on the railways; but he believed that the system would lead to a great deal of abuse. Every facility had at all times been given to the volunteers by the railway authorities and they were always able to provide for the wants of volunteers without conceding so much as that. He knew perfectly well that the gravest objections had come from the Railway Department, and they objected to it very strongly at present; at all events, inquiry ought to have been made at the Railway Office to see how much it would injure the traffic. He believed it would injure the traffic very much, and also the revenue.

The PREMIER said the last clause they had passed provided that the volunteers should be exempt from the payment of any duty or toll "at any pier, wharf, quay, landing-place, ferry, or bridge, or at any gate or bar on a public road"; and surely they might do as much on the railways of the colony! There surely was no harm in allowing them to be conveyed to their duty free. They were performing a public duty. It might be said they were paid for it. So they were to a certain extent, but still they were performing a public duty, and rendering what they believed to be a public service. They might, therefore, very well allow them to travel by the railways free. It would put volunteers living at some distance from their place of drill in the same position as those living nearer. It could only take effect to any extent on suburban lines. It would facilitate a larger attendance at drills, and enable more frequent drills to be held; and that was what they desired to see. If a man lived two or three miles from the drill-shed he probably would not attend drill, especially if he received no pay for attending it and had to pay to go to it. The loss to the Railway Department would be very trifling compared with the advantage to be gained by the facilities that would be given for more frequent drills.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said it was not only the Railway Department but the public had to be considered. The Commissioner, according to the clause, was bound to carry any volunteer in uniform. A lot of volunteers might come and take possession of a carriage, and actually exclude a number of people who had paid their passage, and who could not be carried by that train. The department never could and never would be able to make provision for a lot of volunteers going in a body into a train. There had been every disposition on the part of the Railway Department to give every facility to the volunteers, but it could not be done without inconvenience to the public. Why should volunteers, because they were in uniform, get a preference over the public, and why should not the public who paid for their passages get a preference over the volunteers?

The PREMIER said the clause provided that they should only be carried free when they were in uniform, and were on the way to the performance of their duties.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: I know that.

The PREMIER said that if a man represented that he was on the way to perform his duties as a volunteer, and he was not, he was liable to a heavy penalty.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: I quite understand that.

The PREMIER said that he could not see what objection there could be to the clause. It was in the interest of the public that the men should be induced to attend the drills, and it was only when they were in uniform that they were to be carried free for the purpose of attending those drills. He thought the cost to the country would not be more than £30 a year altogether, and it would greatly facilitate the attendance at drills.

Mr. FOXTON said he understood the clause to simply mean that isolated members of a corps coming in from the suburbs into the town to attend drill would be carried free. As he had said before that evening, it was a real grievance with many men, and he himself knew of instances in which they had lost the services of valuable non-commissioned officers, simply because they would not pay out of their own pockets the fares to attend drills for which they were not paid—namely the weekly and bi-weekly drills at night. If a large body of men were travelling by railway they would be in command of an officer, and it would be the duty of that officer to give notice to the railway authorities that he intended to proceed, say to Sandgate or elsewhere, with so many men, and he did not think there would be any clashing. That had been done hitherto on all occasions, and he was not aware that there had been any crowding. He could not quite agree with the hon. member for Mulgrave when he said that every possible facility had at all times been given by the railway authorities to the volunteers. It might have been so reported officially to the hon. gentleman, but he could speak from personal experience, and he knew that in many instances the railway authorities had thwarted the volunteers in every possible way whenever they had to travel over the line. He could speak of that from personal experience. He did not know, of course, what official information the hon. gentleman had, and did not wish to say anything in the slightest manner detrimental to the principal officers of the Railway Department, or to say that they had thwarted the volunteers; but their subordinates had certainly done so systematically.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said there were always two views to be taken of a question, and the hon. gentleman took the volunteers' view of that question. He had himself administered the Works Department, and he knew that the volunteers were a perfect nuisance to the

department; and if they gave the power, proposed in the clause, that "every officer and man in the defence force, being in uniform, shall be conveyed free over all the Queensland Government Railways," they would be a bigger nuisance than ever. Why, the whole staff of the Railway Department would not be able to supply the volunteers and their demands under that clause, to the exclusion of other passengers who had paid their passage. Volunteers might enter a carriage and take their seats, and the Commissioner would be bound to carry them on. They might know exactly what the volunteers would demand, from the spirit in which the hon. member for Carnarvon had spoken. That hon. member was satisfied that up to the present time the Railway Department had given no facilities whatever to the volunteers. He (Sir T. McIlwraith) said, on the contrary, that the Railway Department had strained every nerve, and done everything they possibly could, to serve the volunteers—consistent, of course, with common sense. They were not going to sacrifice the interest of the department or of the public to the volunteers. The clause actually subordinated the Railway Department to the volunteers, and they would have the Commandant coming down and taking possession of the Commissioner's chair, and ordering that department as he liked. The volunteers would make a pretty mess of that department if they got in there. The clause gave them unlimited power; as any man need only be in uniform, and even if the train happened to be full, another carriage would have to be put on in order to carry him where he wanted to go. The only remedy that the department had was that they could punish him afterwards if he had no right to demand free transport. The clause was certainly most arbitrary, and gave the volunteers a power which they ought never to have. The matter ought to be left to the discretion of the Railway Department, and they would provide all the accommodation that was necessary. A volunteer might go to a station in uniform and demand to be carried to Roma, and the department would be bound to take him there, though they could, of course, punish him afterwards if he had no right to make his demand.

Mr. FOXTON said that one would think, from the hon. gentleman's arguments, that a volunteer stepping into a railway carriage carried some contagion with him, and that he was like a smallpox patient, who hunted everybody else out. He was not aware that the fact of a man being in uniform was anything very dreadful to the other passengers. One would imagine that volunteers in uniform were some abominable nuisance; but the only thing that was proposed now was that a man in uniform should travel free. They had travelled before, and could travel again, if the clause were not passed, by paying their sixpence or shilling, according to the distance they were living from the drill-shed; and if a man living at Toowong, for instance, paid his sixpence, he would just have the same rights as any other passenger, whether in uniform or not. If a man travelled to Roma free when he was not bound to go there on duty, he could be punished; and he presumed that not many of them would do that. It meant simply the loss of the volunteer's fare to the country, and that was a very paltry affair indeed.

The PREMIER said the hon. gentleman objected to the words "and the Commissioner for Railways shall be bound to convey any person in uniform demanding conveyance under this section." No doubt, as far as the Railway Department was concerned, there had sometimes been a spirit of antagonism to the volunteers.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: Quite justified.

The PREMIER: He did not know whether it was justified; but he knew that there was a spirit of antagonism running through various Government departments. There were persons in the Government service who seemed to think that their departments were separate institutions, at enmity with everyone who did not belong to them. He had seen that feeling exhibited himself in various branches of the Public Service, and it was highly objectionable. All persons in the Public Service should understand that they were officers of the same Government, and they should endeavour to help each other, and not fight in the way they were in the habit of doing. Whenever cases of that kind had come under his notice, he had taken the strongest steps to discourage the feeling. Why should not the Railway Department help the volunteers as well as the Colonial Secretary's Department, or any other branch of the service?

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH: So they have done always.

The PREMIER said he thought the hon. gentleman was in error in that respect. It might have been so when he was Colonial Secretary, but he (the Premier) had known the Railway Department to throw difficulties in the way of the volunteers in every possible manner. Of course it was very wrong that it should be so, but he had seen instances in which it had been done. However, as the hon. gentleman objected to the words he had quoted, he (the Premier) had no objection to leave them out, and to insert an amendment in the next paragraph to meet the case.

Mr. NORTON said the words mentioned ought to be omitted, because that was where the danger came in. The hon. member for Carnarvon had pointed out that, if a large body of volunteers were travelling by train, the commanding officer would make arrangements with the railway authorities beforehand; but he might neglect to do so—he was not compelled to do so—and the probability was that, knowing he was allowed to travel free by any train, he would not make arrangements beforehand, and, when he and his men marched into the station, the station-master would be compelled to make room for them, and the ordinary travelling public would be excluded and put to a great deal of inconvenience. He therefore thought that the words should be omitted.

Mr. SALKELD said the second part of the clause provided that any person who fraudulently obtained a free passage by rail by representing that he was going to drill, parade, or rifle practice, would be liable to a penalty of £10; but who was to find out whether volunteers were travelling to their place of drill or not? He did not think that the officers of the Railway Department should be burdened with a duty of that kind. He was afraid that the clause would open the door to a great deal of abuse if allowed to stand as it was. It would be far better to allow volunteers, when travelling on duty, to pay their fare and get their commanding officer to certify for it, so that they might be refunded the amount. In that way the sum could be charged to the proper department — the defence force—and not be saddled on the Railway Department.

The HON. SIR T. McILWRAITH said that the Premier seemed to assume that there was some antagonism in the Railway Department towards the volunteers, as they had so often quarrelled as to the provision made for transit; but the difficulty did not arise from that cause at all. In every case that had come under his observation, it was because the volunteers demanded more than the Railway Department could, consistently with safety to the public, grant. He

thought that the officers of the Railway Department were bound, in the first place, to look after the interests and safety of the public. If they passed the clause as it stood, they would simply make a volunteer uniform a free pass on their railways. There was not the slightest question about that, especially between Brisbane and Ipswich and the intermediate stations. There was no possibility of the officers of the department knowing when volunteers were actually going to drill. What did the men who took the tickets know about the days for drill? And as for the station-master at the station where the man got in, he would very likely be a friend and would be the last man in the world to take action in the matter. The result would be that the penalty of £10 would never be enacted, because, even if it were proved that a man was not going to drill, he would simply say that he had mistaken the day. Virtually, it was no new concession that was asked for. It had been contended for by the volunteers for years, but had always been denied on the ground that there was no possibility of deciding whether a man was travelling on duty or not. Practically, the clause amounted to this: that a man had simply to put on volunteer clothes to travel free on the railways of the colony. That was the objection to the clause.

The PREMIER said, if that was the only objection, it could be met by requiring that the volunteer should produce a pass for the journey from his commanding officer.

Mr. FOXTON said he thought that would spoil the effect of the clause if a separate pass were required for each trip; and if he had a standing pass there would be nothing gained. If a man was going in to drill, say, from Indooroopilly—as several men in his corps were in the habit of doing—how could he get a pass at that place to carry him to the drill-shed? He could get a pass from the officer commanding the corps to go back, but he could not get one to attend drill. He would point out that sufficient security was given against the abuse of the clause, because by clause 45 it was provided that no man should at any time appear in uniform except when on duty, unless by leave; and if he obtained a pass improperly he would be liable to punishment at the hands of his commanding officer, who would unquestionably assist the Railway authorities in bringing to light and punishing any attempt to take improper advantage of the clause. He would also point out that the station-masters at suburban stations got to know as well as anybody else the days upon which volunteers went to attend drill. That would be a complete check—in the same way that the abuse of the season ticket system was prevented by the knowledge of the officials of persons who were season ticket holders and the times at which they generally travelled.

Mr. BAILEY said it seemed that they would require to have a new detective force to watch the volunteers, for certainly it would be impossible for the officers of the Railway Department to watch men and ascertain whether they were going to muster or drill, or were travelling for their own amusement. He would like to point out that the railway question was rather a bigger matter than the Indooroopilly arrangement mentioned by the hon. member for Carnarvon. He remembered an old friend of his in Liverpool once, who knew that he would be subpœnaed on a trial in Liverpool, saying that he would like a holiday, and going straight off to Glasgow. The subpœna followed him, and he got 1s. a mile for coming back to attend the court.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH: Was he a friend of yours?

Mr. BAILEY said the man was a friend of his, and the officers and men in the Volunteer Force would very likely travel on the railways for no better reason. A man might go to Roma in his own interest, knowing that, as he would have to return to Brisbane to attend a parade, he would travel back at the expense of the Government. He thought it would be much better if the men paid their fares, and gave their accounts to the commanding officer, for him to certify as to their correctness.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said the hon. member who had just spoken had reminded him of another and still graver objection to the clause. He thought the railways should provide money for the Treasury and should afford every facility to the population of the colony to enjoy the holidays, before they considered the volunteers. He had always noticed that the volunteers would like to monopolise the railways at holiday time, and as surely as they gave the Commandant the power proposed to be conferred by the clause, so surely would the Commandant be Commissioner for Railways on holidays. He would be constantly taking charge of the department, and the people would be deprived of the railways at the time they could most enjoy them. He (Sir T. McIlwraith) did not object to the volunteers getting free passages on the railways while on duty, but he would subordinate that privilege entirely to the Commissioner for Railways. He would give no power whatever to the Commandant. The Commissioner ought to have full charge of the railways, otherwise they would find that he and the Commandant were bound to clash at holiday times.

The PREMIER said one would almost think they had some thousands of volunteers to monopolise the railways. That clause was intended to deal with a few volunteers here and there; and not with a large body of men moving about on holidays. If a large body of volunteers was moved about on a holiday a special carriage or a special train would have to be provided for them; they would not travel under that clause. What was desired was that men living a little way out of town should have the same opportunity of attending drills or parades as men in town, and that was what the clause amounted to. If it was considered better that a pass should be given by the Commissioner for Railways, he did not care. All he wanted to do was to lay down the principle that, when on duty, volunteers should be carried free; it did not matter in the least how the principle was carried out. The clause might be made to read "shall be entitled to be conveyed free," or "shall on the production of a pass signed by the commanding officer be conveyed free;" it did not matter which.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said the hon. gentleman had not said a word in answer to the objection he had just started. Suppose now that the Commandant on a certain holiday, say St. Andrew's Day, made arrangements for the Toowoomba and Warwick volunteers to come down here for a parade, he would then issue instructions to the Railway Department to provide the means of conveying those volunteers to Brisbane and back, and the Commissioner would be bound to comply with the instructions, for the clause enacted that—

> "Every officer and man of the defence force being in uniform shall be conveyed free over all the Queensland Government railways, from his home or usual place of residence, to all musters, drills, parades, and rifle practices, and back again."

The Railway authorities must either refuse to obey that clause or make provision, to the detriment of the public who were willing to pay for the use of the railway, for the conveyance of the volunteers when they could not conveniently

carry them. The proper way to deal with the matter was that which existed at the present time—namely, if the volunteers wanted any concession they should intimate their wish beforehand and get the consent of the Railway Department. He did not object to them being carried free; it was not a matter of expense, but a matter of interference on the part of the volunteers in a matter that they had no right to interfere with.

The PREMIER said, of course, if the two departments were inclined to fight one another, they might soon come to loggerheads. Anybody could make himself a perfect nuisance. He wondered how many powers there were on the Statute-book by the indiscreet exercise of which almost any officer of the Government could make himself a nuisance. The clause really did not deal with the moving of large bodies of men.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH: Yes, it does.

The PREMIER: It deals with small bodies of men.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH: It deals with "all musters, parades, and rifle practices," and under its provisions all the Roma volunteers can be brought here and sent on to Warwick.

The PREMIER said the Commissioner for Railways acted under instructions from the Minister for Works, and the Commandant under the instructions of the Colonial Secretary. If two Ministers could not come to an arrangement without any clashing it would be a very singularly constructed Government.

Mr. KATES said that, as the clause now stood, all volunteers—say at Roma—had a right to be brought down to Brisbane and taken back again on the occasion of any muster, drill, parade, or rifle practice held in Brisbane. Even if they did not take part in that muster, drill, or rifle practice, the Government would be bound to carry them.

Mr. BAILEY said, supposing there was a small body of volunteers at Maryborough, and another at Gympie, they might arrange to have a trip at the expense of the Government. They knew very well how volunteers joked and chaffed one another. The Maryborough men might make up their minds that they would have a trip to Gympie. If they wished to have a sham fight or a rifle practice the Commissioner for Railways would be bound to carry them there and bring them back again if they were in uniform. Eleven of the Gympie men might wish to play a cricket match at Maryborough; and if they took their rifles, and went in uniform, they could demand their passage to Maryborough and back. All they would have to do would be to walk about with their rifles for about ten minutes. The suggestion he made was the best that could be adopted—that the men should pay their fares and that the money should be refunded on their *bona fides* being certified to by the superior officers. He remembered that a year or two ago men used to walk about Brisbane in uniform on Sundays; but that was because they had no Sunday clothes. They said they donned their uniforms on Sundays because they liked to give the girls a treat. But now, in addition to giving the girls a treat, they would be able to demand free railway passes.

The PREMIER said he should be sorry to think that the volunteers and their officers were a set of rogues and scoundrels, as the remarks of the hon. member implied. He believed they were dealing with honourable men, who desired to serve their country—not men who were trying to defraud their country. It was small encouragement to the volunteers to say that the clause would be taken advantage of for the purpose of defrauding the public.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said he spoke from a large amount of experience of the volunteers and of the Railway Department; and if the hon. gentleman opposite did not attend to the suggestions made he would find there would be a great deal of trouble in the Railway Department. It was the hon. gentleman's colleague, the Minister for Works, who ought to be taking the part he (the Premier) was now taking. He complained that they were giving a certain command over the railways to a power outside the Railway Department; and the hon. gentleman met him by saying that all he wanted to do was to give free passes to men on duty, and that it would come to only a small amount. But he had pointed out that the clause, as framed, would give the Commandant powers that would harass the Railway Department, and that the department was plagued enough already with the difficulties of working a single line, without an invasion of that kind. He remembered the case alluded to by the hon. member for Wide Bay quite well. The volunteers made use of the railway when people who had paid their fares could not get seats.

The PREMIER said he wished to avoid every difficulty of that kind. Of course it would be dishonourable for men to go for a holiday by rail under a pretence of rifle practice.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH: The department can manage a thing of that sort.

The PREMIER said that it would be a very proper thing to bring two corps together for the purpose of rifle practice, but it should be after reasonable notice to the Commissioner for Railways. He thought this provision would meet all objections. He moved the insertion, after the word "shall" on the 2nd line of the clause, of the words "on giving reasonable notice to the Commissioner for Railways, and on production of a pass signed by the commanding officer of the corps."

Mr. MACFARLANE said the clause was a very important one, and it would help the Committee to come to a decision if they could get the opinion of the Minister for Works. He thought the fairest way would be to adopt the suggestion that the volunteers should pay the regular fare, which should be refunded at the end of each month by the Commandant, in cases where the volunteers were entitled to travel free.

Mr. ANNEAR said that volunteers on actual duty should be carried free by rail. Up to the present time he was not aware that the Gympie corps had been to Maryborough; and he was sure that no man belonging to the corps, either of Maryborough or Gympie, would be a party to such a transaction as that mentioned by the hon. member for Wide Bay (Mr. Bailey). The clause under consideration had evidently come from the Brigade Office, the members of which up to the present time thought they had been slighted — they thought they were not sufficiently considered by the other departments. They wanted to have the power of issuing passes themselves, and he did not think that power should be given to them. It would end in utter confusion. They should continue the practice which had existed heretofore. When he was in Maryborough Captain Tooth frequently consulted with him, and they never found any difficulty in getting the proper authority to travel by rail. He thought it would be better for the power of granting passes to be retained by the Commissioner for Railways and the Minister for Works, with the Colonial Secretary as head of the Volunteer Department.

Amendment agreed to.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the words from "and the commissioner" to the end of the paragraph were omitted; the words "or attempts to obtain" inserted after the word "obtains" in the 2nd paragraph; and the clause, as amended, was put and passed.

Clause 67 was passed with a verbal amendment; and clause 68 was passed as printed.

Clause 69 was amended, on the motion of the PREMIER, and passed as follows:—

"Nothing contained in this Act or the regulations shall be construed to authorise the quartering or billeting of any troops, either on a march or in cantonment, in any house set apart for the residence of females, or to oblige the occupiers of any such house to receive such troops, or to furnish them with lodging or house room."

On clause 70, as follows:—

"The Governor—

1. May convene courts of inquiry and appoint officers of the defence force to constitute such courts, for the purpose of investigating and reporting on any matter connected with the government or discipline of the force, or with the conduct of any officer or man of the force; and
2. May convene courts-martial, or delegate power to convene such courts, and appoint, or delegate power to appoint, officers to constitute the same, for the purpose of trying any officer or man in the force for any offence under this Act; and may delegate also power to approve, confirm, mitigate, or remit any sentence of any such court; but no officer of Her Majesty's regular army on full pay shall sit on any such court-martial."

The PREMIER moved the omission of all the words after "Act" in the 2nd paragraph down to "court" in the second last line of the clause.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said the clause was really not inconsistent with clause 72, and it was not consistent with what the hon. member said was his interpretation of the clause, which was that all courts-martial should be subject to the approval of the Governor. Why should the power not be delegated, when the very exercise of the power was still subject to the approval of the Governor in Council? He thought it a pity to alter the clause at all, because it did not give the Governor more power than he would want.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the amendment was withdrawn; and with a verbal amendment the clause was put and passed.

On clause 71, as follows:—

"1. The regulations for the composition of courts of inquiry, and courts-martial, and the modes of procedure and powers thereof, shall be the same as the regulations which are for the time being in force relating to the composition, modes of procedure, and powers of courts of inquiry and courts-martial for Her Majesty's regular army and which are not inconsistent with this Act; and the pay and allowances of officers and others attending such courts may be fixed by the regulations.

"2. Every person required to give evidence before a court-martial may be summoned or ordered to attend.

"3. If any person who is not enrolled in the active force is summoned as a witness before a court-martial, and after payment or tender of the reasonable expenses of his attendance makes default in attending; or being in attendance as a witness—

(*a*) Refuses to take an oath or affirmation which he is lawfully required by a court-martial to take; or

(*b*) Refuses to produce any document in his power or control which he is lawfully required by a court-martial to produce; or

(*c*) Refuses to answer any question to which a court-martial may lawfully require an answer; or

(*d*) Is guilty of any contempt towards the court-martial by causing any interruption or disturbance in its proceedings:

the president of the court-martial may certify the offence of such person under his hand to a judge of any court of law or police magistrate in the locality having power to punish persons guilty of like offences in his court, and such court or police magistrate may thereupon inquire into the alleged offence, and if the person accused is found guilty, punish him in like manner as if he had committed such offence in a proceeding in such court."

On the motion of the PREMIER, the following words were inserted after the word "army" in the 1st paragraph—"or navy, as the case may be."

Mr. PALMER asked if the 2nd subsection of the clause applied to persons outside the force?

The PREMIER: To anyone.

Mr. PALMER asked what were the means necessary to compel a witness to attend?

The PREMIER: Payment of expenses, which is provided for in the next paragraph.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said he did not think all the machinery provided in the clause was necessary for the working of the court. Was it necessary to apply to a civil court to punish a witness for refusing to give evidence?

The PREMIER said he did not think it desirable to give a military court power to punish anyone except those persons actually belonging to the force.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH asked if it was the case in England that a military court had no power to punish witnesses? He did not see how a case could go on unless all the witnesses were soldiers or sailors.

Mr. PALMER said the Bill wanted a little watching, or they would all find themselves inside the meshes of the net. There were a series of offences mentioned in the Bill under which they might all be made liable.

The PREMIER said he was not able at the moment to lay his hand on the Imperial Act dealing with the subject. According to the Bill a man might be summoned, and if he did not appear after his expenses were paid he rendered himself liable to the usual penalty, but it was not proposed to give a military court power to deal with him.

Question put and passed.

On clause 72, as follows:—

"No officer or man of the defence force shall be sentenced to death by any court-martial except for mutiny, desertion to the enemy, or traitorously delivering up to the enemy any garrison, fortress, post or guard, or traitorous correspondence with the enemy; and no sentence of any general court-martial shall be carried into effect until approved by the Governor."

Mr. MACFARLANE said he agreed with the clause with the exception of the word "mutiny." Supposing a young lad of eighteen had been induced by his elders to mutiny, it would be very hard that he should be tried and sentenced to death by a court-martial just because he happened to be a simpleton. The approval of the Governor before the sentence could be carried into effect was a safeguard as far as it went, but he should like to see the word "mutiny" struck out of the clause.

The PREMIER said that mutiny was one of the most terrible offences that could be committed; it was almost worse than desertion to the enemy. In the case of a young lad being led astray, sentence of death would never be carried out. It would always be mitigated in accordance with the circumstances. He proposed to omit the word "general" in the term "general court-martial," as he did not think it desirable that the sentence of any court-martial should take effect without the consent of the Governor.

Amendment agreed to; and clause, as amended, passed.

On clause 73, as follows :—

1. Any commissioned officer who—

(*a*) Knowingly claims pay on account of any drills performed with his corps for any man belonging to any other corps; or

(*b*) Includes in any parade state, or other return, any man not duly enlisted and attached as a member of the defence force; and

"2. Any non-commissioned officer or man of the force who—

(*c*) Claims or receives pay on account of any drill performed in the ranks of any other than his own proper corps, or in more than one corps, during the annual drill in any year;

shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall likewise be liable to be tried and punished by court-martial."

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that surely it was rather hard to make such a serious offence of claiming payment which was not due?

The PREMIER: It is obtaining money by false pretences.

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH said that if the rolls were properly looked after there would be no chance of anything of the sort. A better plan would be to punish officers for keeping the books so carelessly that such a crime was possible. It seemed to him to be rather an absurd sort of crime.

Mr. FOXTON said it was very necessary to retain the provision. The rolls were called by a non-commissioned officer, and, by collusion with him, one man or half-a-dozen men might improperly make claims for drills they had never attended, and the State would thereby be defrauded.

Clause put and passed

Clauses 74 to 78 passed as printed.

Clause 79—"Subscriptions, arms, etc., vested in commanding officer"—passed with a verbal amendment.

Clauses 80 to 87, inclusive, passed as printed.

On clause 88—"Payment to be made out of the consolidated revenue"—

The HON. SIR T. MCILWRAITH asked what was the meaning of the last paragraph. Was it intended to supersede the Audit Act?

The PREMIER said he did not think the Auditor-General submitted a detailed account of of the expenditure; it was a summarised account.

Clause put and passed.

The remaining clauses of the Bill were passed as printed.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the CHAIRMAN left the chair, and reported the Bill to the House with amendments.

The PREMIER moved that the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of considering an amendment in clause 2.

Question put and passed; and the House went into Committee.

The PREMIER moved that after the word "volunteers" in the 7th line, clause 2, page 2, the words "company of marines, common ship's company," be inserted.

Amendment agreed to.

The House resumed; and the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill with further amendments.

The report was adopted, and the third reading of the Bill made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following messages from the Legislative Council :—

"Legislative Council Chamber,
"Brisbane, 12th November, 1884.

"Mr. SPEAKER,—The Legislative Council having had under consideration the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly in the Bill intituled 'A Bill to Establish a Board of Pharmacy in Queensland and to make better provision for the registering of Pharmaceutical Chemists and for other purposes,' beg now to intimate that they disagree to the amendments in clause 5, because the Bill provides for the examination by the board of pharmacy of persons desirous of being registered as pharmaceutical chemists, and it is expedient for the safety of the public, and in order to secure proper examinations, that all members of such board, before their appointment thereto, have proved themselves qualified to conduct the prescribed examination, by having passed a similar examination; agree to the amendment in clause 28, with the addition at the end thereto of the words 'and who at the time of the passing of this Act is engaged in selling or dispensing homœopathic medicines only,' in which addition they request the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly; and agree to the other amendments of the Legislative Assembly."

"Legislative Council Chambers,
"Brisbane, 12th November, 1884.

"Mr SPEAKER.—The Legislative Council have this day agreed to a Bill intituled 'A Bill to enable the trustees of an allotment of land in the town of Maryborough, granted for the purposes of a School of Arts, to sell the same or any part or portion thereof, together with the buildings erected thereon, and to devote the proceeds to the building of a new School of Arts,' beg now to return the same to the Legislative Assembly without amendment."

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER, in moving the adjournment of the House, said that the Government proposed to take, to-morrow, after the third reading of the Defence Bill, the second reading of the Members Expenses Bill; after which, he hoped there would be time to make considerable progress in Committee of Supply.

The House adjourned at six minutes to 11 o'clock.