

the necessary safeguards for the exercise of the voting rights of every soldier on active service at the time the general election is held. Very shortly, the system for Europe which has been devised is this: it is proposed that when this Act comes into operation a ballot shall be prepared, as appears in the schedule to the Bill, and the necessary papers and instructions should be sent to the troops who are on foreign service. Those documents will be sent to the secretary of the High Commissioner. Upon the writs for election issuing, instructions will be sent by cable to the secretary of the High Commissioner to deliver to the chief paymaster, who is stationed in London, the necessary papers for distribution amongst the troops in Europe. The chief paymaster will send to each regimental paymaster the necessary documents to be handed to the commanding officer of every camp, or unit, or corps, that may be either in England, in France, in Belgium or elsewhere. This will place the men under such commanding officer at once in touch with all the information necessary as to the election which is about to take place in Canada. They will not vote for candidates; they will vote for the Government or for the Opposition. The commanding officer in charge of any particular unit, or corps, will inform his men of the right which has been extended to them by this legislation, of their being entitled to vote, of the ballot being given to them to be marked with the same secrecy that is observed in an election conducted in Canada. Attached to each envelope in which the ballot will be secretly enclosed will be an affidavit which the voter will make as to all the particulars necessary and as to the electoral district where, if in Canada, he would vote. When the ballots are marked all those documents will be returned in sealed packages to Canada and distributed throughout the various electoral districts to which they apply by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. The candidates representing both political parties, or independent candidates, will be duly notified by the returning officer of each electoral district of those papers having been received and of their being opened in the presence of the representatives of all candidates, precisely as a ballot box would be opened.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I guess they would rather see them put in than see them taken out.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Hon. gentlemen, in perusing the particulars of the method which has been worked out in the Bill, will

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

probably conclude that this system can be carried out with the same satisfaction to the voter that any system in vogue in Canada will be carried out at the time of a general election. There is also provision of a somewhat different character, but very much along the same lines as to the troops who are on active service in Canada. The details will be found worked out in the Bill, and which, when we go into committee, may be further discussed.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—What are the qualifications for taking an affidavit effective in Canada? By what means would a party be qualified to take affidavit?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The commanding officer will be authorized to administer the oath to the voter, the same as a returning officer would.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I should like to ask the hon. gentleman if this Government, or any other Government, has any right to pass any legislation outside of the four corners of this country. How can we pass legislation to do something in Belgium, or Flanders or any other foreign land? Your affidavits would not be worth the paper they are written on—a piece of impertinence.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—If hon. gentlemen prefer that the Bill be debated and read a second time to-night, it would probably admit of our disposing of it at an earlier hour than if we deferred it until to-morrow. What does my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition say about that?

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—I was going to suggest to my hon. friend that I should move the adjournment of the debate in order to take this matter up to-morrow morning. The Bill has only just come up to us; it is in a very much amended form as compared with the form in which it was first of all introduced into the other House; and I think it requires careful consideration before we express an opinion upon it.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON—I understood the hon. gentleman to say that if those Canadian soldiers were in Canada they would have the right to vote. Now in the province from which I come, 30 days' residence would not give any volunteer, if he were at home, a chance to vote in New Brunswick; he would have to be a resident 1 year there. In that respect the Bill differs from the franchise which the people at home would have, so far as our province is concerned. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that