

application, there will be some instances in which, perhaps, there may be reasons why it is more difficult to justify the granting of a vote than is the case, speaking generally; but we have to make a rule that is going to be generally applicable, and I do not think we can go so far as to discriminate between individual soldiers. The only safe rule is this: A man was a soldier or he was not a soldier; if he was a soldier, he ought to have the vote, and I do not think, speaking generally, he ought to be deprived of that vote because, although he had been a soldier, at some period before he was enabled to go overseas and become actively engaged, it was ascertained that he was not suitable for a soldier and he was discharged.

Mr. GERMAN: Surely the minister would not call a man a soldier who was never accepted as a soldier?

Mr. DOHERTY: A man who was not accepted as a soldier never was a soldier and never was a discharged soldier, so that he would not come within the scope of this Bill. We are dealing with soldiers who, actually are soldiers and soldiers who were soldiers and were honourably discharged. A man who was stopped at the outset and was never taken on the strength was not a soldier at all and does not come under this Bill.

Mr. L. A. LAPOINTE: Will men of the ages of 20 in classes one and two, who are called out for active service under the Military Service Act, have the right to vote as soon as they are called out? Will a minor who is conscripted have the right to vote?

Mr. DOHERTY: Perhaps the best answer that I can give is to compare the two measures and see whether the hon. gentleman is right or not. In the drawing up of this Bill we were endeavouring to cover all the methods by which a man might have become a soldier, because we wanted to cover every soldier. We had not presented to our minds in any particular way the provisions of the Military Service Act, and if on comparing them the result would be produced that, by reason of the wording as it stands here, the conclusion would have to be reached that, when a whole class of men from 20 to 34 would be called out for active service, before any individual man came to participate in any way in military operations, this wording would give him a vote, that result was not intended to be produced, and if the combined wording of the two Acts would produce that

result, we should have to find a remedy for that condition of affairs.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Will the minister explain about the motor boat patrol service?

Mr. DOHERTY: I understand that the Motor Boat Patrol Service is an Imperial Service manned by Canadians, their principal work being to patrol the seas that are infested by submarines.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: There is no such thing as a Canadian Motor Boat Patrol Service? I understand there are quite a number of men in Halifax at present who belong to this service. They have been there all winter, but as there are no boats for them, they have been doing nothing for some months. Do I understand these men are in the Imperial service?

Mr. DOHERTY: I understand that the Auxiliary Motor Boat Patrol is an Imperial service. If it were a Canadian service we would consider them to be included. I understand that our Canadian service includes the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Militia on active service, and the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve. The others are all Imperial services.

Mr. A. A. McLEAN: I think that a great number of the men who went across for the Auxiliary Motor Boat Patrol joined the Imperial Navy, and I think they should be given the vote.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I am not objecting to their being given the vote.

Mr. A. A. McLEAN: I think we should amend the clause by adding "The Royal Navy."

Mr. DOHERTY: With regard to the Imperial service, it is our intention to modify the section by making a provision giving Canadian citizens in the Imperial service, whether naval or military, the right to vote. There may be difficulty in the way of exercising that right, but they will be given the right.

Mr. DESCARRIES: Clause 3 says:

(1) Every military elector shall be qualified and entitled to vote at a general election.

(2) If he can state the electoral district wherein he last continuously resided during at least months of the year immediately preceding his appointment, enlistment, enrolment or calling out on active service, or so particularly specify a place or places within an electoral district whereat during such period of time he so resided that such electoral