

special act ratifying the procedure. The money was spent in adding to the comfort and convenience of the camps, in which many thousands of men had to spend several months of their training period.

SOLDIERS' VOTES RETAINED

Elections Act Amendment, 1916.—Every male British subject serving in the naval or military forces of the Empire, who had resided in British Columbia six months prior to enlisting, is provided with the opportunity of voting at the forthcoming general election in the constituency within which he had resided for one month prior to enlisting. **No matter where a British Columbia soldier is stationed** on military duty, by Bill No. 86 of the Legislature of 1916, he is entitled to retain the supreme privilege of citizenship, and record his ballot in favour of the representative he wishes to have protect in Parliament the interests of the beloved Province which he is defending on the battlefield.

Recognizing that the opinion of the men who have remained at home is not the opinion of the whole Province, the Government has decided to take referenda on two great questions of the day—Prohibition of the sale of liquor, and votes for women. **On both of these questions every soldier is entitled, under the Act passed last session, to have a say as to what shall be the law in the Province for which he is offering his life.** Legal machinery is provided for the taking of the vote wherever British Columbia soldiers are located, and Sir Richard McBride, the Government's Agent-General in London, has been instructed to apply for the permission of the War Office to use it.

The Government decided that such details as registration on the voters' list, etc., should not be required of the soldiers. The Liberal representatives in the Legislature opposed the clause which permits every B.C. soldier to vote, contending that those under 21 should be barred the same as if they were at home. The Conservatives retorted that a man who was old enough to fight was old enough to vote. If a boy of 18 showed he was capable of realizing his responsibilities by voluntarily enlisting, it was only fair to recognize him as a full citizen, a member of the Government pointed out.