

Mr. McLARTY: Yes, it was given consideration. I might mention that in the original bill the voting hours had been fixed at eight to six, and the special committee after consideration decided it would be wise to extend the time until seven o'clock at night. That makes a rather long day, and the pay for poll clerks is not as large as at a general election. The thought was that unless we are prepared for a substantial increase in expense, the hours should not be extended further.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I call attention to the fact that in a great many of the war industries men work until six o'clock at night. These industries are so far from their homes and polling subdivisions that it would be impossible for thousands of them to reach the polling subdivision in one hour. I know that the law allows them two hours in which to vote, but that provision is seldom invoked, and I doubt if it would be in this case. If you close the polls at seven o'clock, you will automatically disfranchise a great many of those working in war industries.

Mr. McLARTY: In view of the observations made and the fact that the government is anxious to secure the largest possible vote, I am agreeable to having the regulations amended to keep the polls open from eight in the morning until eight at night.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): In the draft regulations for service voters, No. 23 provides:

(1) The vote of every Canadian service voter shall be cast before any commissioned officer. . .

What about a soldier on leave? He is an ordinary voter, but some deputy returning officers might say he cannot vote except before his commissioned officer.

Mr. McLARTY: My advice is that the man on leave can vote as an ordinary voter at home.

Mr. CHURCH: That is a most dangerous principle.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): Should not that be changed, because the minister knows, as we all do, that some deputy returning officers might take exception to that?

Mr. McLARTY: I assure the hon. member that consideration will be given to his suggestion. After all, the regulations are not being passed to-night.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): On page 4 of the same regulations provision is made that there shall be six scrutineers to count the votes; the Prime Minister to appoint two, the leader of the opposition two, and the other groups two between them. It also says

that two have to be for the negative and two for the affirmative. The leader of the opposition says he is for it. What about the Prime Minister?

Mr. McLARTY: I think he has made the same declaration.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): What kind of box are you in?

Mr. McLARTY: As far as possible the appointment of scrutineers will be the same as for the taking of the overseas vote at the last election. There may be some difficulty, but I do not think the leader of the opposition will be embarrassed about finding some man overseas who may not agree with him but still could act as a proper scrutineer. I do not think there will be any practical difficulty.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The matter of scrutineers at civilian polls is also important. As I recall the regulations, those who are supporting the affirmative are entitled to have two representatives present, and those supporting the negative are entitled to have two. Does the minister think that is going to be very effective? I know the question of scrutineers at the civilian polls is rather difficult. I do not think it is my duty to suggest scrutineers. I should like the minister to give consideration to this. In my province at all events the men appointed deputy returning officers are usually of a very good type. If a man is considered to be below par, shall I say, people know about it; representations are quietly made to the returning officer, and he looks into it and in many cases will agree that that man should not be a deputy returning officer. I think the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Hill), at whom I am looking, will agree with that. And we have practically no election frauds.

Mr. GRAYDON: Of course that is New Brunswick.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am speaking only of my personal experience. They do not countenance personation. I am sure that the two deputy returning officers at the poll where I am accustomed to work on election day would not allow anything like that.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford City): That applies to all Canada.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Well, I would hope so; I cannot say except from my own personal information. The suggestion I have made is that in the absence of anyone appearing as scrutineer for or against, perhaps the deputy returning officer could be instructed to appoint two competent, qualified voters, to