

to the men who have actually carried the work through and been to the front, but on the other hand, is it an undue consideration to give to the man who was willing to be a soldier, who, so far as it depended upon himself, did everything within his power, and was, at all events, sufficiently qualified that he succeeded in passing the first examination at the time of enrolment or enlistment? It may be and, I dare say, it is quite true that amongst those young men could be found some who did themselves know of or who suspected their disqualification and who did not anticipate going overseas, but if that were done under conditions in which one could be quite satisfied that in the particular case the individual had been guilty of conduct such as that, I doubt if he would be honourably discharged.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Why not remove the qualification so far as such a man is concerned? This Bill is not intended to cover the case of such men. They are under no disability. It is true they joined the service, but they were struck off the strength later on and they never went overseas. Why include them within the scope of this Bill? I suppose most of the men struck off the strength and over 21 will have votes in any case. After being struck off the strength, they will return to their own homes, so that all who will have the vote will be minors. It is rather objectionable to have minors vote in some electoral districts of Canada when other minors are not permitted to vote. Amongst that list you might find a small number of women who enlisted for hospital service overseas, but who were unable to proceed overseas for one cause or another. I do not think it is advisable to have them enrolled as electors in the forthcoming election.

Mr. SINCLAIR: There is a difficulty as to where such persons shall vote. I do not know whether the minister intends to reorganize the franchise of the country and make different rules in different places, but I can see a difficulty about a young lad in the case referred to finding a place in which to vote under the regulations. He is not in the county in which he belongs, and I do not suppose the minister is going to provide a ballot box with an officer to take the votes of men of that character who happen to be in various places throughout Canada, so that I think there will be diffi-

[Mr. Doherty.]

culty in their exercising the franchise even if you give it to them.

Mr. DOHERTY: There is a provision later on under which men in that position in Canada, honourably discharged soldiers, are declared to be entitled to vote in the constituency in which they reside. They are entitled to have their ballots taken upon their affidavit and upon production of the certificates of their enrolment and their honourable discharge, so that no confusion is caused. Such a man will not be on the list.

Mr. SINCLAIR: His name will not be on the list?

Mr. DOHERTY: No, but under the statute he will be entitled to vote upon presenting himself, upon producing the evidence of his discharge and making affidavit as to his identity with the person mentioned in the documents. It will be the case of a man voting who is not upon the list. I do not see that there is any great anomaly in allowing this young man who is a minor, even although he be in Canada, to vote, while other minors in Canada are not voting. There is this substantial difference between the minor we are dealing with and the other minors in the constituency, that this particular minor has, at all events so far as within him lay, been a Canadian soldier.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Other minors who are soldiers are overseas performing military service, and they have not an opportunity of voting in their own country. The particular case of minor we are dealing with never proceeded overseas. Surely that is a distinction.

Mr. DOHERTY: There is no doubt that, if we could do more for the minor who has gone overseas and is performing a service, than we are doing, we would be glad to do it, and no doubt, if we were to weigh the real merits of each one, this minor is entitled to a great deal more gratitude than the boy who has not been called upon to serve, but we have to consider the case of the boy who volunteered his services and who, so far as depended upon himself, made himself a soldier.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Even in the case in which the parents were obliged to ask for his discharge because he was under eighteen? There are many such cases.

Mr. DOHERTY: I do not know to what extent that would occur. It is inevitable that, if we are to make a law of general