

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The hon. gentleman will find out what my view is when the vote is taken.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—But the hon. gentleman may only have occasion to vote on the amendment.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I recognize that.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—This is a branch where we are supposed to be independent and able to express freely our opinion upon the value of legislation which is brought before us. I would be very much interested to know if the hon. gentleman thinks that that part of the Bill which refers to taking the vote of the men abroad facing the enemy is one which commends itself to his own judgment.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I think the principle is all right. What troubles me is the working out of it. What still makes it more difficult for me to understand is the action of the hon. gentleman who has just spoken, and those by whom he is surrounded. They are trying to make it more impracticable than it really is.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I do not believe the first part of this Bill is workable. I have not yet been convinced that the machinery provided for taking the vote of the one hundred thousand Canadians who are in the British army, under the direction of a British officer in a foreign land, will accomplish the object intended, and I do not think the vote can be properly taken, but at least an attempt can be made to surround the voting with the elements of safeguard.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Probably one of my last words will be those I am uttering now. I will sacrifice all my convictions and opinions if the Government of the day can obtain from Lord Kitchener, the general of the British army, his approval of this Bill, and that he will allow the soldiers under his command to be interfered with by petty politicians, party heelers and so on. If the Government can obtain his approval I have nothing more to say.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—All right, we will try and get it.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Will the Government communicate with Lord Kitchener?

The motion was agreed to on a division, and the clause as amended was adopted.

Hon. Mr. KERR.

On clause 11:

"This Act shall only remain in force during the present war."

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—In what way will the war end? Will it be by a declaration of peace or a treaty?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—When there is a declaration of peace, I would say the war would be at an end, and it can only possibly apply to one election. There is no probability of more than one election being held under the Bill.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—I was hoping that it might not apply to any election at all.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—If the hon. leader would recall some of his historical knowledge he would recollect that wars have continued for seven years, and even thirty years.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—And one hundred years.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Yes, this Bill shall be enforced while the war lasts. I contend that legislation of this kind should not be enacted, on account of its indefiniteness. It should be enforced for a stated time. Who is going to tell us whether the war will last one year or ten? If hon. gentlemen want my impression—and that will not make the war end any the sooner—my opinion is that it will last several years. We are only on the skirmish now. Wait until we drive the Germans back into their own country, and see how long the war will last when the allied forces are bound to fight the Germans on their own territory. It may last five, ten or twenty years.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Well, move an amendment, and fix a day.

Hon. M. POIRIER—Make it nineteen years.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I think the hon. gentleman from Ottawa has raised a point that ought to be taken into consideration. This legislation should not be passed in such an indefinite way.

The clause was adopted.

On sub-clause 5 of clause 4:

5. The returning officer shall notify the returning officer of each of such electoral districts that soldiers have claimed the right to vote in such district, and the returning officer so notified shall forthwith forward to the camp or base returning officer a certified copy of the voters' lists for his electoral district, if there be such lists in force, and as soon as can-