

Justice if that is proper legislation to be placed on the statute book, permitting such latitude as that. No one can deny my statement.

Mr. DOHERTY: Is the suggestion that because we provide that people who are enlisted in these different forces are to have votes, it means that we can make voters by enrolling people for the express purpose of voting?

Mr. GERMAN: That is absolutely the suggestion.

Mr. DOHERTY: I plead innocence to that charge. It never occurred to me that it would be suggested that the military authorities of this country were going to proceed to enroll people, merely for the purpose of allowing them to vote.

Mr. GERMAN: They may be innocent also. Let me call attention to another phase of the situation. The ordinary constituency, say in Ontario, will consist of about 60 polling subdivisions, on an average. You could take three young men under 21 years of age, under this Act, prior to the election, in each polling subdivision, without any fuss or feathers, without any knowledge, perhaps, on the part of the Minister of Militia, of there being any wrongdoing, and you could enroll or appoint them to the Royal Canadian Navy, or to the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, they do not go overseas—

Mr. PUGSLEY: Or the aviation service.

Mr. GERMAN: Yes, but particularly the Naval Service. They are not called out to fight. They could be enrolled, and no one would notice it, or think anything about it. If you appointed three in each subdivision, on the day of the election you would have 180 votes, which might easily turn the scale. All you have to do is to direct attention to this, and hon. members can see what might happen. I am not saying it will happen; but I submit no law should be placed on the statute book which would permit a latitude of that kind, and I insist that it must be changed. I am not opposing the right of the soldier to vote. If a soldier enlists as a British subject, whether he comes from the United States of Hong Kong, he is a British subject, has joined the forces and gone to fight the battles of Canada, and I am prepared to give him the vote, but I say that his place of voting should be designated, and should not be fixed by some political manipulator.

[Mr. German.]

Mr. DAVIDSON: Where would the hon. gentleman suggest that a person who had never resided in Canada should poll his vote, if not where he wanted it polled?

Mr. GERMAN: I say it should be cast in the electoral constituency where the regiment to which he was attached was raised. If that provision were inserted, it would be known where all these votes would be counted, and a bunch of them could not be colonized in one particular place. The great danger is in a bunch of votes being cast in one constituency. A few votes of that kind might be recorded and counted promiscuously throughout the whole electoral district, and would not be of much consequence, but the colonization of them in some particular locality might have the effect of turning the scale. We should have some provision with reference to minors. A young man who enlists for overseas is supposed to be 18. Why go under that age? Some are under 18. Under this Bill, you may have a minor ten years old, or five years old or an infant in arms. Of course, they would not vote, but you are leaving the door open to an opportunity for wrong-doing, and that opportunity should not be given in a measure such as this providing for the peace, order and good government of Canada.

Mr. DOHERTY: I quite agree with the hon. gentleman, at all events, in one respect, that is, that there are two distinct questions involved here: First, should we give the vote to the soldier who had not been a resident of Canada? Second, if we do give him a vote, then where are we going to allot his vote? The hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) warned me as to what I would have to consent to being suspected of if I adhered to this proposal, and he expressed a great deal of scandalized horror that the proposal should have been made. As regards giving the vote to the soldier, even although he had not resided in Canada, I gave, before the committee rose at six o'clock, some reasons which, in my judgment, seemed to quite justify that action on our part. A great deal is made of this question of non-residence in Canada. My hon. friend from Annapolis (Mr. Davidson) has demonstrated that there are to-day in some parts of this country, and there certainly have been in the past—and not a very remote past—in other parts of this country, a perfect recognition of the right of the British subject, non-resident in Canada, when he has certain other qualifications, to vote. In Quebec, until 1912, when