

able to come in on election day, and cast his vote?

Mr. DAVIDSON: Yes.

Mr. BURRELL: If that is true, the whole argument on the other side falls to the ground.

Mr. DAVIDSON: The only qualification is that a man is a British subject, and owns land of a certain value.

At six o'clock, the committee took recess.

### After Recess.

The committee resumed at eight o'clock, Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

Mr. PUGSLEY: If the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Davidson) is not going to resume his remarks, I would say that, in my judgment, the Minister of Justice ought to withdraw this provision to which exception has been taken. My hon. friend from North Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) made the statement before recess that he would not suggest that the minister had any ulterior motives, but I am prepared to say that if the minister, after his attention has been called to the injustice which may be done by continuing this provision in the Bill, insists upon its being continued there, he must not object if we suspect him of having ulterior motives and of having designed this Bill in order that unfair practice may be exercised and unfair advantage obtained in an election.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. PUGSLEY: What can be done under this provision? A Canadian soldier who has gone to the front is limited in his choice of a constituency to that particular constituency in which he has resided. He has one vote and one choice. The American soldier, the man who is not a resident of Canada, who may happen to be a British subject, no matter in what country he may have resided, who has joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force, not necessarily enlisting in Canada, possibly enlisting in the United States, or in England, possibly enlisting on this side, because, if he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, his expenses across the ocean would be paid and he would receive a higher rate of pay than if he went to England and enlisted in the Imperial Forces, is to have the choice of 230 odd constituencies in Canada in the casting of his vote. That is grossly unfair. It gives opportunity for fraud of the worst kind. It gives opportunity for men who

[Mr. Burrell.]

may not have been residents of Canada to join together, to make up their minds, perhaps under proper guidance, as to the constituencies in which their votes shall be cast, in which the contest will be close, in which the majority will be a narrow one, and thus, they may possibly control many constituencies in Canada in favour of the Government of the day. The Government, under this Bill, appoints its own presiding officers; with the choice of those presiding officers the leader of the Opposition has nothing to do. That, in my judgment, is wrong. It is contrary to fair and proper administration, and it would not be too much to say that, if the minister persists in continuing this provision in this measure, it is designedly intended to offer an opportunity to steal the election from the people of Canada.

Mr. CROTHERS: I hope my hon. friend is not judging other people by himself.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I am judging by what I see in black and white. In 1915, a Bill fair in its provisions was presented to the House, a Bill to which both sides of this House could give their assent. To-night we find that, absolutely without reason, contrary to proper principles, the Government has departed from what was agreed to in 1915 and is giving an opportunity to a thousand or so of American citizens—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. PUGSLEY: —not naturalized American citizens, but men who have had their residence in the United States, who may never have set foot upon the soil of Canada, to join together and distribute their votes judiciously amongst certain constituencies and thus carry the election against the voice of the people of Canada, that is, against the votes of those in civilian life resident in Canada and of our Canadian soldiers who have a real interest in the affairs of this country. That is absolutely wrong, and if the minister persists in continuing this provision and so departing from the principles of the legislation of 1915, he cannot find fault if hon. members on this side of the House draw the reasonable, and indeed, the necessary conclusion from what is printed in the Bill.

The Minister of Justice has said that we have suggested that those who have enlisted from the United States and from other countries are not intelligent. We have not suggested anything of the kind. We have said that the man who either has not lived in Canada at all, or has not for years been a resident of Canada, has not