

Mr. McLARTY: I can give the reasons very briefly and they are extremely practical ones. The first one is to save time, and the second is to save expense. There is nothing new in this procedure. It was adopted in rural sections and has been in existence for some time, being applied to municipalities up to 10,000 population. Prior to 1923 it applied in such cities as Edmonton and Calgary—rather substantial ones—and worked satisfactorily. When the matter was being considered in committee the chief electoral officer estimated that it would save at least a week in the taking of the plebiscite if this system were followed. He now advises me it would save a longer time than that. In addition, it will eliminate the necessity of a court of revision, the cost of which would be \$200,000 extra; and if the list were printed after the court of revision was held, there would be an additional cost of \$350,000. The penalties provided by the section are severe—at least as severe as the penalties provided in the elections act—and I suggest that with the amendment which has now been moved, the requirement of vouching and the necessary declaration, and the production of the registration card, the opportunities for fraudulent voting are pretty well reduced to a minimum. However, the main reasons, in answer to the hon. member for Davenport, are the two that I have mentioned—time and expense.

Mr. CHURCH: Is a man allowed to vote only once? In the declaration is he required to state that he has not voted before? In the old electoral law a man could vote where he had property. In my first vote I voted in York South because I had a vacant lot and I voted in East Toronto as a resident. Is it a case of one man, only one vote?

Mr. McLARTY: The answer is yes.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—Notice of result of plebiscite published in *Canada Gazette*.

Mrs. CASSELMAN: Is any provision being made for members of this house to vote? If the house is in session, many members will be away from their polling divisions.

Mr. McLARTY: The situation will pretty well take care of itself. If they reside in Ottawa for twenty-eight days before the plebiscite, they will be entitled to vote in the city of Ottawa.

Mr. GRAYDON: The sections have been carried pretty rapidly, and I should like to ask a question on clause 6. I have no doubt it must be covered by the language of the clause, but it is not clear to me. There are a

[Mr. MacNicol.]

number of nurses in England at the moment attached to some part of the corps there, and I am wondering whether this language would cover those nursing sisters over there.

Mr. McLARTY: Clause 6 to which the hon. member refers was very carefully drawn in consultation with the judge advocate general in the Department of National Defence. It was drawn broadly enough so that all branches of the service would be covered, and I am advised that the classes to which he refers would be covered by this section.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—Notice of result of plebiscite published in *Canada Gazette*.

Mr. CHURCH: Is that to be just an obituary notice before its final burial in the archives? I think so.

Section agreed to.

On section 9—Regulations by governor in council.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): This I think is the section under which the regulations may be discussed. I have gone through the regulations for ordinary voters but confess that I have not been able to go over the service regulations. I have one suggestion to press, about the numbered ballots. I think the minister agreed to look after that. I do not think it can be done by way of amendment. Will he give an undertaking that the regulations will be changed in some manner, and put that on the record?

Mr. McLARTY: I shall be glad to do so. I gave an undertaking last night to the hon. leader of the opposition. If he would like to have it placed on the record, I will see that it is placed on *Hansard*.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): In connection with the hours of voting, regulation 18, for ordinary voters, clause 5, provides that the voting hours shall be from eight to six, but I think it was stated yesterday that they would be extended to seven o'clock in the evening. There was some discussion from the industrial point of view and that of the farmers of rural Canada that the hours should be extended until eight in the evening. Many of these industrial workers and farmers are labouring under a handicap in producing food and materials for the war effort, all of which are very necessary. We should do all we can to assist them, and extending the time until eight o'clock in the evening would help them in many respects to cast their votes. Has the minister given thought to that?