

to vote at all, for service in say, the Royal Canadian Navy, or the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, who would never go on active service, who had no intention of going on active service, but who when they enlisted would be entitled to vote. Young men of such political calibre as suited the ideas of a certain party might be enlisted for the purpose of voting. There should be protection against that kind of thing, because enlistment in the Canadian Militia or active service is quite a different thing. I am quite willing to allow the minors who have been on active service to have a vote. But I am certainly not willing that minors who, just before an election, may be appointed to or enlist in a service which is not really an active service, should be given a vote as minors when they would otherwise not be entitled to vote. If that were done, voters' lists throughout the country could be padded to an unlimited extent with disastrous results to an opposition.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The point made by the hon. member for Welland (Mr. German), is almost unanswerable. It should not be permissible, under this measure, for, say, twenty persons from Newfoundland to enlist for service upon one of the Canadian Naval Service boats of Nova Scotia two or three days before the date of polling and thus obtain the franchise. There is a great distinction between those serving in the Canadian Naval Service and those serving at the front. For instance, all the Fishery Protective Service boats are, I think, in the Canadian Naval Service at the present moment. I do not think we should go so far afield as to provide for the voting of persons so engaged.

I quite agree with what the hon. member for St. John says as to the granting of the franchise to those who are not ordinarily resident in Canada, and I do not agree with the remarks of the hon. member for North Perth (Mr. Morphy). I hardly think that the position taken by the hon. member for St. John is controvertible. It does not seem to me arguable that a man who has never resided in Canada should be given a vote under this measure. Such a question should not seriously engage our attention for a moment. We appreciate services rendered to the cause by all those who have enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force but let us be reasonable about it. Do not let sentiment carry us to a point which will make us all appear foolish and irrational. In the Canadian forces you will find many

[Mr. German.]

men from the British West Indies, from Newfoundland, and from other parts of the British Dominions. Upon what basis of reasoning can you argue that they are entitled to a vote in a Canadian election? They do not ask for it; they could not intelligently exercise the franchise. I do not think they would thank the Canadian Parliament for giving them that privilege, and I can conceive of no reason why it should be given to them. This is a Canadian Parliament legislating for and in the interest of the citizens of this country, and, therefore, any legislation contemplated by this measure should be intended to cover Canadian citizens only. I agree, therefore, with the suggestion made by the hon. member for St. John that the military vote should be confined to those who have been Canadian citizens for at least a certain period of time. The limit should be four or six months, because you are giving a great privilege in granting the franchise to those who may have been citizens of this country for but a short time. The minister should give serious consideration to this part of the section. I do not think he can present reasons which will satisfy a reasonable man that this part of the section should remain.

Mr. CROTHERS: My hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Pugsley) has pointed out that there are some extraordinary provisions in this section, and my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. A. K. Maclean) objects to one particular provision. I agree with my hon. friend from North Perth (Mr. Morphy) that the circumstances in which this Bill is brought before Parliament are extraordinary. The whole thing is founded upon extraordinary circumstances. Our idea is that the man who enlists, who risks his life to save this country and the liberties of this country, ought to have something to say as to the government of the country, especially during the time that a war is on. Under this measure we purpose giving the Indian a vote. Without it, he would not have a vote. Why are we giving a vote to the Indian? Because the Indian is showing more patriotism and courage than many others, and is risking his life for the salvation of his country.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The Indian is a resident of Canada.

Mr. CROTHERS: We are not giving him the franchise because he is a resident of Canada. If that were the only ground, we