

Mr. DOHERTY: Under the section in the Bill as introduced, the vote would not be extended to Canadians who form part of the Imperial Force. As I explained when the Bill was introduced, the reason we had not included Canadians in the Imperial service was that we had not been able to devise means whereby we would be able to take their votes. A suggestion was made when I introduced the Bill which led to further consideration being given, and we have reached a conclusion to amend this definition, so as to include men of Canadian citizenship serving in Imperial forces. We might not be able to find the men, and the presiding officer might not be in a position to obtain their vote. We shall amend the section to meet that case.

Mr. L. A. LAPOINTE: The Bill says that every military elector shall be qualified and entitled to vote at a general election. That is quite clear, and then the Bill tells us what a military elector is. The section reads:

"Military elector" means and includes every person, male or female, who, being a British subject, whether or not ordinarily resident in Canada, appointed, enlisted, enrolled or called out dian, has been, while within or without Canada, appointed, enlisted, enrolled or called out for active service as one of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

My two points are on the words "minor" and on the words "called out". Under the ordinary law in our province an elector must be 21 years of age and a British subject

There are some other provisos.

10 p.m. but the age must be 21. I desire to ask if this Bill is applicable to the conscription law, because, under section 2 of the Military Service Bill, the Government will take the right to call out classes of the ages 20 to 35. If the Government calls out classes 1 or 2, that will include everybody who will be conscripted, and it will also call out electors who would otherwise have been considered minors. Thousands of young men would be called out. I am not opposed to these young men having a vote, but it would make a big difference in the city of Montreal. It would be interesting to know that at any moment the Government could put in a constituency like mine thousands of young men, who, I thought would have no vote. I should like to know, if this measure is applicable to the conscription law, because I see in clause 2 of the Military Service Bill the words:

2. (1) Every male British subject who comes within one of the classes described in section three of this Act, shall be liable to be called out as hereinafter provided on active service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force for the defence of Canada.

These are exactly the same words as in the Bill before us. If this Bill is passed, thousands and thousands of young men in my hon. friend's district in Montreal could be called out and given a vote. I should like to know if that is going to be done. I might go a little further than my hon. friend from Welland who speaks of three votes in each of 60 different polling subdivisions, which give a total of 180 votes. We might have a good many more votes in each division in Montreal than my hon. friend from Welland suggests.

I was going to raise the point suggested by my hon. friend from Halifax, in regard to the discharged soldiers who are not 21 years of age. They have enrolled from the age of 18 up, and the Government could put a lot of voters in the different divisions of Montreal and in other places, because, in my opinion, at any time the Governor in Council by proclamation could call out on active service, as aforesaid, for the defence of Canada—exactly the same words as in the other Bill—thousands of young men would have a vote, three weeks before polling day. I desire an explanation on that point, because I want to know where I stand.

Mr. DOHERTY: I might first deal with the question asked by the hon. gentleman from Halifax. I understand his first question to be whether it was intended that the honourably discharged soldier should have the vote as a military voter. I may say that was the intention, and I think that is the effect of the section. The intention was that the military vote should belong, not only to the soldier actually in the performance of his duty, but to the man who has been a soldier. The principle object in view was to assure the vote to the returned soldier, but it operates, and it was intended to operate, so that the vote could be secured to the honourably discharged soldier. It is quite true that the provision may operate to give a vote to a certain number of soldiers whose service was, perhaps, of not very great value, but it will only be such soldiers as gave the service that they were able to give, and ceased to be soldiers simply because they were honourably discharged from service. It is true they have not done anything in the way of actual service to be compared