

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—My hon. friend should not object to all the safeguards put around the votes of the soldiers at the front. The people should have some rights. This Bill reminds me of what Dooley said when Dooley and Hennessey were talking. Dooley said to Hennessey, "Well, what was all the trouble about?" and Hennessey said, "Oh, they want to vote over there—the Englishmen want to vote," and Dooley said, "Why don't they let them vote? I would give them a ballot, but I would do the counting myself." In this case they want to do the counting themselves.

The amendment was carried on a division, and the clause as amended was adopted.

On clause 4—Volunteers in Canada—issue of writ.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—I propose another clause in order to carry out the idea which I tried to elaborate when I was speaking, that we should place this Bill in a position that it shall not go into effect until sanctioned by the British Government. I do not think I need elaborate this any more. I made it clear to the House this morning. The clause I propose to add reads as follows:

"No proceedings shall be taken or had under sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this Act, until a declaration has been obtained from the Secretary of State for War in Great Britain that a full and fair vote of the said volunteers may be taken without prejudice to military discipline and without interference with the efficiency of military operations, and the same duly proclaimed in The Canada Gazette."

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I might point out to my hon. friend that Canada could not accept any humiliating position such as that embodied in the amendment. Canada possesses an autonomy of a sovereign state as to its franchise, and to say that Canada must apply to the Secretary of War to put in operation an Act solemnly passed by the Canadian Parliament, and particularly relating to the franchise of Canada, would be so humiliating and so compromising of the dignity of Canada that I am astonished at my hon. friend proposing it.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—I should like to point out that when these men agreed to serve their country, they placed themselves under military discipline and military rules, and they are now under military authority and military discipline under direction of the British War Office.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—They are acting in their military capacity, but they have

not sacrificed their rights as citizens of Canada to exercise the franchise given them as citizens of this country.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I should like to ask in what other capacity are they now on the Continent.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—As citizen soldiers of Canada.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—If Lord Kitchener were to overrule the exercise of this right, what position would we be in?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I would say that Lord Kitchener has a great deal more wisdom than to attempt to do anything of the kind.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Then there should be no difficulty in testing the matter and ascertaining his opinion.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—We are satisfied to take chances on that.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—I should like to ask the hon. leader of the Opposition what position would Lord Kitchener and Sir John French be in provided they refused to carry this out? I do not think we are striking at the root of the thing. This whole franchise is the most ridiculous thing that ever was enacted in any country.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It seems to me the whole policy adopted by the leader of the Opposition is a most disingenuous mode of killing the Bill and rendering it utterly unworkable. We have had denunciations of the Bill in very strong language. We have had one hon. gentleman declaring it an invention of the infernal regions, and comparing it with the declaration of Sherman when he said, "War is hell." We have had the hon. gentleman from Toronto exhausting all the dictionaries that ever were printed to find adjectives sufficiently strong to condemn the whole measure. It seems to me that a more straightforward method of killing the Bill would be to test the opinion of the Senate upon its merits by moving that it be rejected, or voting against it instead of mutilating it in such a manner as to render it utterly unworkable.

Hon. Mr. KERR—Might I ask the hon. gentleman what his honest conviction is regarding this Bill? Is it one that should pass or not? And if he thinks so, is he prepared to make a motion in that direction?