

move the name of that man from the list, and he has no alternative but that of swearing his vote. Later he may have to travel fifty or seventy-five miles in order that he may satisfy a judge that he had the right to vote.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Does this Bill provide that persons qualified to vote under the Military Voters' Act shall have their names added to the list by enumerators?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The names of a great number of such are not on the roll.

Mr. MEIGHEN: If a man qualifies under the ordinary civil law, he has the right to go on the list even though he is a returned soldier. But if he does he can vote only once; the Military Voters' Act provides that.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: There will be a large number of soldiers in Canada who are not registered but who will be entitled to vote by simply coming to the poll and taking the oath.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Such men could not get on the list in Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Quebec on that ground, because the Bill provides that only female relatives of soldiers can get on.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Most of the persons whose names will be removed from the electoral lists by reason of alienage will be found in the western provinces. Why should their names not remain on the lists and the oath be put to them when they come to vote? If they swear that they were qualified prior to 1902, they will be entitled to a vote. If anybody is of opinion that they were not naturalized prior to that date, they may be required to take the oath; if they decline to take the oath they lose the vote. Outside villages or any incorporated town or city in my constituency I should be willing to let the wives, mothers and sisters of soldiers vote without their names being on the lists. They would be well known in the several communities in which they resided, and if an oath were inserted in the Act which could be administered to those asking for the right to vote, that would cover the case. In larger places lists could be made.

Mr. MEIGHEN: On the same principle you might as well not have a list at all. If you do things that way, the whole election will have to be revised by the judges. Good list-making involves this: as much work as possible should be done before the

[Mr. Carvell.]

contest; everything that can be finally decided should be decided before the contest. Such as cannot be agreed upon is subjected to judicial decision; but let us not leave everything to judicial decision. If every woman could vote by merely swearing that she was the relative of a soldier—and she might so swear quite honestly—thousands of votes might be polled that should not be polled at all.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: My suggestion, of course, is applicable only to rural districts, where it would be almost impossible for any woman to claim improperly the suffrage under this Act.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is possible to conceive of an enumerator who would defy the obvious rights of a person who should be on the list, but such an enumerator would be notoriously crooked and notoriously stupid. Suppose the enumerator declines to put on Mrs. Smith whose son, everybody knows, is at the front. He could not do more harm to the candidate whom he is supposed to favour than he does by taking that course. Whenever that becomes known the people begin to feel that they had better vote the other way. It arouses disgust at once.

Mr. CARVELL: That is not the way it is done down East. They manipulate the votes not by refusing to put a man on who is entitled to be registered, but by putting on men who are not entitled to be registered. That is where the difficulty comes in.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Then the names are posted up, the public become aware of the fact, and the same revulsion of feeling sets in. It may be suggested that this provision might be abused on polling day by too many challenges, but the same check exists in that respect. If people are sworn recklessly on polling day, it hurts the candidate whose agent does the swearing. The friends of those sworn make up their minds that they do not like that kind of work. I have known votes to go the other way as a result of instances similar to this; the thing works out all right in the end. It has worked out all right in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the people there are not a bit better than the people down in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; the enumerators are not a bit better or worse. It is in the interests of all concerned that the enumerators do the work in such a way that it will be acceptable to the public. It is suggested by some hon. gentlemen that we employ the township clerks to assist in making up the lists. The insuperable difficulty in that respect is that a township includes