

(d) if, notwithstanding she is married to an alien, she was at the time of such marriage a British subject by birth and has not herself sworn allegiance to any foreign power: Provided, however, that this paragraph shall not apply to the wife of an alien enemy.

The meaning of that is practically this: to be entitled to vote, a woman who has become a British subject by marriage, or through the naturalization, while she was a minor, of her father, who was previously an alien, must have lived in this country the necessary length of time and must in every way fulfil the qualifications which would be necessary in case she were applying as an unmarried woman for naturalization.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The House is very thin at the moment, and I do not purpose to discuss the principle of the Bill at this stage, as I understand several members wish to speak on it. I suggest that we give the Bill its second reading and go into Committee upon it, when the information I desire can better be given than across the floor of the House.

Mr. THOMAS HAY (Selkirk): Is an educational test to be provided in connection with this Bill? If not, would it be necessary for the women to comply with the educational test of the province before being allowed to vote at a Dominion election?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend perhaps did not observe that I pointed out the provisions of the Naturalization Act. Subsection (b) of section (2) of that Act provides that any person seeking naturalization must be of good character and must have an adequate knowledge of either the English or the French language; that is the only educational test. Inasmuch as this Bill provides that any woman who has not been naturalized in her own right must fulfil the same requirements as if she were seeking naturalization, the condition which I have just read would apply to her, and she must fulfil it before being granted the vote.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time, and the House went into Committee thereon, Mr. Boivin in the Chair.

On section 1—Women to be entitled to vote:

Mr. STEVENS. There is one point I am not quite clear about. Paragraph (c) provides that the woman shall have resided in the constituency in which she seeks to vote for a period of at least three months. Do I understand that a woman from a foreign,

but not an alien enemy country, who comes to Canada and is married to a British subject four months, we will say, prior to an election, thereby securing British citizenship, is able to vote?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: She must fulfil the qualifications required by paragraph (c) of subsection (2). Subsection (2) makes it necessary that she shall have resided in Canada a sufficient length of time and be possessed of all the requirements necessary to entitle her, if unmarried, to become naturalized as a British subject. She must reside in Canada for at least a year, and must reside within the Empire for at least five years.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: She must become naturalized, and in addition to that must have lived three months in the constituency.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: If she becomes naturalized by reason of marriage or by reason of being a minor at the time when her father, being an alien, was naturalized, she must show before a judge of a Superior Court that she has fulfilled all the requirements that would be necessary if, being an unmarried woman, she were making an application for naturalization on her own behalf. The three months' residence in the constituency is an additional qualification.

Mr. DEVLIN: Those three months may be counted as part of the time?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Certainly.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I would suggest that instead of saying "three months," we say "ninety days." Some three months would be more than ninety days, and others would be less.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It is pretty much the same.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: There is no objection that I can see to paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), but I may call attention to paragraph (d) which seems to me most objectionable. It provides that every female person shall be entitled to vote at a Dominion election who,

(d) is not disqualified on account of race, blood or original nationality to vote at elections for members of the Legislative Assembly of the province in which the constituency is situate in which such female person seeks to vote.

Take the law of the province in that respect. If there is to be in any province any legislative enactment which prohibits a woman from voting, our law respects that part of the provincial legislation. If in