

fied to vote in any other electoral district in Canada he shall vote in such other district only.

Any one can understand the reason for that provision. The idea which Parliament had in view then was that only those who had been residents of Canada should be allowed to vote. It was not thought desirable to require a long period of residence, but they must be residents of Canada. A most radical change is proposed by this Bill, and it is declared that these men shall have the right to vote, whether they have been residents of Canada or not. What knowledge would a man who has all his life been a resident of the United States have of the political parties or of the questions which engage the attention of the people of Canada, simply because, being a resident of the United States, he comes and enlists in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces and goes overseas. I can conceive of no reason why he should have a vote. It seems to me to be entirely objectionable. The minister should be able to present the reasons for this remarkable change, before asking the committee to adopt it. I do not believe he can suggest any good reason. Every argument is the other way. No person should be allowed to vote in the coming election, unless he has been, for some period at all events, either short or long, a resident of Canada.

Mr. MORPHY: Replying to the remarks of the hon. gentleman from St. John, I cannot conceive it possible that he should take such ground. Here we see the patriotic spirit of Canadians, living in the United States, whether they have lived there for one or two, or ten or twenty years—

Mr. PUGSLEY: Not necessarily Canadians.

Mr. MORPHY:—without having lost their citizenship of this country, and, rather than discourage them, I, as a Canadian, would give them credit, in a measure, for holding their allegiance to Canada. We find these young men, free from conscription, loyally coming forward, from patriotic motives, to fight for the dominion of their birth—young men who would be entitled to pensions once they have enlisted, young men who take the risk of the horrors of war, and go to fight for the British Empire, including Canada; young men who have been paid Canadian money, who will receive treatment in Canadian hospitals at Canadian expense, whose dependents will receive every benefit this country may give,—and we cannot give

them anything too good. These young men have been away from this country for years, without forfeiting their allegiance, and without taking out papers of naturalization in a foreign country, they have kept in touch with the affairs in Canada, and, on the specious argument of the hon. gentleman from St. John, alleging ignorance, and alleging that these men do not understand political questions, we are asked to provide that they shall not be permitted to vote. To my mind the proposition is ridiculous.

Mr. PUGSLEY: This section does not limit it to the case of persons who have been born in Canada, but it is extended to every British subject. This person or his parents may never have spent a single day in Canada until the day he enlisted, and, indeed he may never have been in Canada, because he might enlist abroad in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, and yet, under this Bill he is entitled to vote.

Mr. MORPHY: That does not detract one iota from my argument. If a British subject comes here and chooses to enlist in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, he should be treated as a first-class Canadian. If a man who comes from the United States, or anywhere else, and enlists in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces is to get every benefit under the sun from the treasury of this country, it seems a monstrous thing that we should deprive him of his vote. I am astonished at this time to hear, on the floor of this House, an argument so specious and so much against the very first principles of patriotism as the argument advanced by the hon. member from St. John.

Mr. GERMAN: There is another phase of this section that strikes me as rather peculiar. It allows minors to vote. The clause reads:

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

Every one knows, that the men enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve are not really serving on active duty at the front.

So far as I know very few of them are on active duty at all, but what would be the effect of this provision? The Government, if they saw fit, could appoint or enlist any number of young men who were minors, not entitled