

the hon. member for North Oxford might say that he would be glad to have him vote elsewhere.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Or out in the Yukon; some place where there is a very narrow vote.

Mr. DOHERTY: If it is right to give him the privilege of voting, are we to refuse to him that right because he may be influenced in its exercise? At that rate we would have to refuse the ballot to every voter in this country.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Supposing it was suggested that every Canadian soldier, although he has a residence in Canada, should be permitted to select his constituency anywhere in Canada. Why not give him the same privilege that you give to the American, the non-resident?

Mr. DOHERTY: Because it is possible to attach the man who has resided in Canada to a constituency.

Mr. PUGSLEY: But why treat him worse than you treat the non-resident?

Mr. DOHERTY: Because if we could pick out a constituency for the other voter we would do so.

Mr. PUGSLEY: The minister must think it an evil to allow a man to pick out any one of the 230 constituencies in Canada and to allocate his vote to it, and yet he proposes to give to the non-resident that right, although he may have no interest in the future of Canada.

Mr. EDWARDS: Does my hon. friend say that a man, even although not a native-born Canadian, who has come to this country and enlisted and gone overseas, might have no interest in the future of Canada? That was the hon. gentleman's statement.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I have not said that. The Bill does not limit it to the case of a non-resident who has come to Canada to enlist, but extends the right to a man who may have enlisted in England. He may never have set foot in Canada. He may have enlisted in the Bermudas, and yet, because he attaches himself to the Canadian Expeditionary Force, he is permitted by this Bill to vote and to select his own constituency in any part of Canada.

Mr. EDWARDS: Would my hon. friend not allow that man to vote?

Mr. PUGSLEY: I am opposed to giving the vote to any man who has not been a resident of Canada. Yes.

[Mr. Doherty.]

Mr. EDWARDS: I am very glad to have my hon. friend on record.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I have been on record all afternoon.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. The Bill defines military voters to include all members of the military forces mentioned here, or anyone who has been honourably discharged therefrom. Some 65,900 men were discharged from the Canadian forces up to the 14th of June who never proceeded overseas. I assume that they have obtained discharges, although I am not sure. Under this section they would be military electors in this country. Supposing 20 per cent of them were under age, that is under twenty-one years of age, that would mean that 13,000 or 14,000 of these people in Canada would have votes.

Mr. EDWARDS: As a matter of fact, how many are there?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I do not know, but I assume 20 per cent. Many of these would be in the force from a few days to six months, and the question arises in my mind whether it is necessary or proper that they should be made, by statute, military electors in Canada. Many of them never intended to proceed overseas. I think the provision should be modified in some way. Then there were discharged in England, up to June 30, some 4,380 men. I assume that these were British-born who enlisted in Canada and proceeded overseas with various regiments, men who were entitled to be discharged in Canada but preferred taking their discharge in England because they intended again taking up residence there. It is worth the minister's while considering whether these should be qualified as electors in Canada under this section.

Mr. ARTHURS: A number of those men were probably discharged in England for the purpose of taking out commissions in either the Canadian or the Imperial army.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I should like the minister to keep these two points in mind. I wish he would explain what is covered by the auxiliary motor boat patrol service. Is that service organized, and, if so, where does it exist? Is it to proceed overseas?

Mr. DOHERTY: It is overseas.

Mr. EDWARDS: In what position is the Canadian soldier, having enlisted here, but having gone overseas and been transferred from the Canadian force to a branch of the Imperial Army?