

The Honourable  
W. L. Mackenzie King, M.P. -2-

If the necessary repealing sections are not in the new Bill as introduced you should certainly make a fight to get them in before the Bill is passed.

Starting with the Dominion Elections Act as it appears in the Revised Statutes 1906, the first amendment of any consequence was the Act of 1915 to give soldiers votes - 5 Geo. V. c. 11 - By sec. 12 of that Act it was to remain in force only "during the present war". And this legislation purported to be expressly repealed in 1917, by the Military Voters Act, 7-8 Geo. V. c. 34, sec. 21.

But this repealing section is on the Statute Book as part of "Part IV" and this "Part IV" opens with the enactment that it applies only to a general election held "during the present war or after the conclusion of peace but before demobilisation".

I imagine that in 1917 the intention really was to repeal altogether and unconditionally the Statute of 1915 and if this repealing section had been made an independent enactment, printed at the beginning of the Statute as sec. 1 of the Act of 1917 - or if it had been as it now is, at the end of the Statute, but printed, not as part of "Part IV", but as an independent section numbered 2 of the 1917 Act - the absolute repeal of the Act of 1915 would, of course, have resulted. As it is, however, it just illustrates the mess that has been made of things. No one can say, as things stand, whether or not the