

man does not know anything about our problems or is not interested in them, we strike an argument that would apply to a good many of our citizens in Canada. I realize that we are taking an unusual step, but, after all, we are between giving to the British subject soldier who did not happen to reside in Canada that recognition which we think, as a general rule should be given to the man who fights for Canada, and not treating him on an equality with other Canadian soldiers. I do not think that Canada has any danger to apprehend from this vote.

As to the registering of the soldiers' votes and the possibility that the present provisions might permit votes being crowded into a particular constituency that some one may be especially interested in carrying, it may be that there is a possibility for the exercise of influence of that kind, but I think there is equal possibility in one direction or the other. But may I point out the difficulty that we are face to face with when we concede that these men ought to have votes. It is suggested that we ought to give them votes at the places at which they enrolled. That suggestion was seriously considered, but we found that the practical result would be that, in certain constituencies where there was a large enlistment, you would take the control of the constituency from the ordinary elector of the constituency, absolutely.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: That is not in the Bill, that surely was never seriously considered.

Mr. DOHERTY: It was suggested here a moment ago.

Mr. MURPHY: I think that was a limited class.

Mr. DOHERTY: If you allowed all the men who had enlisted, say in the city of Toronto, to vote there, you would crowd out the electors of that particular constituency. And may I mention in passing that subsection 3 of section 3 has application to a class other than this particular class, that is the class of man who is not in a position to define his constituency, although he may have resided in Canada. You do not want to refuse that man the vote and must make a provision by some method to determine where he shall vote. If you took the men who could not define their constituencies, and all the men who never resided in Canada, and crowded them all into the places in which they are enrolled, you would, in regard to many constituencies, take those constituencies bodily out of the hands of the people actually resident in them and

[Mr. Doherty.]

transfer the control of them to these men who gathered there accidentally, merely for the purpose of enrolment. Another serious objection is that, by that system, you would give no opportunity for the vote of those men of whom I am now speaking, who, although they did reside in Canada, were interested in Canada and registered as from that part of Canada which they knew best and in which they were most interested. So that you cannot take subsection 3 and treat it as applicable only to men who had not resided in Canada.

May I point out that the number of votes that will be covered by this provision with regard to men who have not previously resided in Canada will not be very considerable?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Is that not a good reason why we should not break in upon a well-established and sound principle? If there were, say, some 50,000 or 100,000 British subjects who had enlisted in the Canadian army from some of the other Dominions of the Empire or from the Old Country, it might be worth while to meet their case; but where only a few hundred have done so, is it worth while departing from sound principles?

Mr. DOHERTY: I should think that if their numbers had been exceedingly large, it would have added to the force of the argument against their being allowed to vote. But if it were made to appear to me that we were going to give this very exceptional privilege to so large a number of people that we would transfer over the control of Canada to people who had never had resided in Canada, I would think the objection was much stronger than when we were face to face with the question of allowing, I should suppose, 5,000 or 10,000 voters at the outside. It is not going to make a material difference, the election is not going to depend on these men, and we are not involving Canada in any serious danger that the people of Canada, as such, will not control the outcome of the election by granting the right to vote to these men who, after all, deserve well of Canada, and whom Canada has an interest to encourage by every means to remain with her and to continue, after the war, to be her citizens, as she is, by this operation making them, so far as voting is concerned.

Mr. MORPHY: May I refer to a question arising out of what was said by the hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. Copp) about the ignorance of Canadians who