

resident in Canada," and such person is to have the right to vote. Then, as a corollary or a consequence of that, sub-section 3 of section 3 has been drafted. This is a most extraordinary provision. It provides that such a person may select any electoral district which he pleases. The result of that would be that, if the ballots of these non-residents were judiciously distributed—and I know some gentlemen who could distribute them judiciously—they would control practically every electoral district in Canada, and could turn the vote for either one party or the other. I do not think that should be permitted, and I do seriously call the attention of the minister to that provision. I saw the other day that there were said to be some 5,000 British citizens living in the United States who were desirous of serving the Empire, and it is very convenient for them to come to Canada and join the Canadian expeditionary force. These men, perhaps none of whom have ever lived in Canada, some of whom have not been in Canada since childhood, presumably engaged in various occupations in the United States, come to Canada and enlist. They go to the front and they are allowed to vote as Canadian electors. They have no place of residence in Canada and all they have to do is to say they have no place of residence and then their votes may be distributed throughout the various electoral districts of Canada. I ask if that is right. Why should the mere fact of non-residents engaging in the battles of the Empire as members of the Canadian force entitle them to be allowed to take part in an election which is to determine the government of Canada for the next few years?

Mr. HAZEN: Should not the man who fights for the country have the right to vote?

Mr. PUGSLEY: He is not fighting for Canada, but for the Empire, and because he is a British subject.

Mr. HAZEN: He is fighting for Canada too.

Mr. PUGSLEY: No, he would be doing so just as much if he were to join the army of the United States or the Imperial army. Why should you give a man who is, to all intents and purposes, an alien, so far as Canada is concerned, the right to take part in the determination of the domestic affairs of, and the government of Canada in the future, simply because he finds it convenient to join the Canadian Expeditionary

[Mr. Pugsley.]

Force in order to fight for the British Empire?

Mr. HAZEN: He has to be a British subject.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Yes, that is all.

Mr. HAZEN: But a British subject is not an alien.

Mr. PUGSLEY: He is a foreigner.

Mr. HAZEN: A British subject is not a foreigner.

Mr. PUGSLEY: He is a stranger to Canada, a non-resident of Canada. I would suggest to the minister that the words "whether or not" be struck out, so that the clause would read:

Who, being a British subject, ordinarily resident in Canada.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Why not fix the time?

Mr. PUGSLEY: I do not see why the time should not be fixed. He should be a resident of Canada for three months, or perhaps six months, long enough, at any rate, to have an intelligent interest in Canadian affairs.

Mr. NESBITT: The Act of 1915 provides for "thirty days in any district."

Mr. PUGSLEY: But resident in Canada for six months.

Mr. NESBITT: A resident for thirty days would define the place to which he belonged.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Would the hon. minister tell me what time he proposes filling in, in subsection 2 of section 3? There is a blank there.

Mr. DOHERTY: The intention was to fill it in by "a period of four months within the last year."

Mr. PUGSLEY: I think the minister should give a reason for this very great change he proposes making in the law. Section 1, of the Act of 1915 reads:

Every male British subject of 21 years of age or upwards serving in the military forces of Canada in the present war (hereinafter called "volunteer"), who, within six months immediately preceding the date when he was appointed to or enlisted in such forces, had been resident in any electoral district in Canada for a period of not less than thirty days, shall be entitled to vote in the electoral district in which he was last so resident, in the manner hereinafter set out, notwithstanding his absence from such electoral district or from Canada; provided that if any person was, at the time he was so appointed or enlisted, quali-