

the foreign counsels of Great Britain. I have nothing more to say except to express the hope that the soldiers who are doing great service for Canada are going to use the weapon which we are putting in their hands with a great deal more caution, sagacity, consideration and deliberation than we have been giving to the passing of this legislation.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—If any argument has been advanced to-day to reject this Bill the hon. gentleman has given it; and why in the face of his argument that the Bill is perfectly absurd and useless and against the British position, he is still going to vote for it, passes my comprehension; but my comprehension will make me vote against the Bill.

The SPEAKER—The question is now on the amendment.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I want to speak to the amendment as seconder. Let me say, to start with, that I think it is an outrage on the part of the Government to try to railroad legislation like this through the House in the dying hours of Parliament, to choke off discussion of it. Every year we find the same thing; the most important Bills are kept to the last part of the session and railroaded through the House. Now we are told that Parliament is to be prorogued at 4 o'clock, without consulting us; we have nothing to say in the matter, I suppose. As far as I am concerned, I am going to exercise my right to discuss this Bill if I want to, and at such length as I please.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I quite agree that, as far as the vote taken on this Bill is concerned every hon. gentleman has a right to express his own opinion and vote accordingly. If my neighbour votes for the measure, I have nothing to say against him, but I have gone into this thoroughly and with what intelligence I possess, and I think the Bill is the most ridiculous proposition I ever heard of. I cannot conceive of the Government bringing in this measure for any other purpose than to try to make some cheap, very cheap political capital out of it. My hon. friend knows, and every hon. gentleman in this House knows, that when one of our men steps on British soil he becomes a British soldier under the control of the British War Office, and we have nothing more to say about his actions. They have the right to say whether he shall go here or there or what he shall do; yet here we are legislating that he shall do

something without consulting the people in charge at the present time. The thing appears to me to be ridiculous. We pass legislation here to do something outside of this country.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—We have amended it.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—Yes, but it was not right in the first place. You pass legislation to take affidavits in Flanders, but you have no authority to take affidavits in Flanders or Germany or France or any other foreign land. To my mind the whole thing is ridiculous. Just imagine your pack of heelers, as we will call them, with the ballot boxes on their back where the shells are bursting, trying to get votes.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—They will not be there.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—No, they will not be there. I may repeat what Dooley said, You want to give them the vote and count them yourselves. The thing is absolutely ridiculous. I am sorry that my hon. friend has moved the six months' hoist. It would have been better if he had moved to eliminate clauses 2 and 3 and the schedules working in with those clauses, that would provide cutting out the vote with reference to our own country and giving the men here the right to vote at home. However, by giving it the six months' hoist I do not suppose you will interfere with the vote of men here, because they can go home and vote where they belong. At the same time, it would probably be better if we had left the Canadian part in; but as my hon. friend has moved the six months' hoist, and a strong disease calls for strong medicine, I shall vote for it. I do not think the Government can be sincere in bringing this measure down. It is the laughing-stock of the country. The traditional policy of Great Britain has been not to introduce party politics in the Army or the Navy. Do you think you are going to introduce absurd politics into the army in Europe and have one part voting and the other part not voting? It is ridiculous, and I shall vote for the six months' hoist.

The amendment was declared lost on the following division:

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