

deleted and that the word "eighteen", shall be substituted therefor. Will those in favour please indicate? Those opposed?

I declare the amendment lost.

Then we have to consider paragraph 3, which says that paragraphs K and L of subsection 2, of 14 are repealed. K has to do with persons who are confined in an institution by reason of poor laws and the like; L has to do with persons disqualified from voting by reason of employment for pay or reward and last year the committee went over this matter and decided to repeal this section. Shall subsection 3 carry?

Carried.

Subsection 4 has to do with the qualifications of a veteran under the age of 21. Shall subsection carry?

Carried.

Now we move from section 6 to section 37 of this bill, dealing with voting in advance polls. We held this matter over as a result of the desire of Mr. Robinson and others to make representations with respect to mariners. We have Mr. Castonguay here and if there are no questions with respect to the section, we will ask Mr. Castonguay to give an answer to the representations made by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. MUTCH: On what page does the section appear?

The CHAIRMAN: Page 24.

Mr. MUTCH: Thank you.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: At one of the last meetings of the committee I was asked to prepare a statement with regard to the suggestion made by Mr. Robinson. I have given this matter a good deal of thought and I have prepared a statement on the subject which reads as follows:

Under the present election procedure, it is rather difficult for me to offer a constructive suggestion to provide special voting facilities to the sailors on the Great Lakes who are absent during long periods from their home polling divisions.

These sailors are entitled to the privilege of voting at advance polls, but it is obvious that these advance polls do not offer sufficient convenience to these sailors since, in order to vote at advance polls, they must be in their home town during one of the three days that such polls are open. Moreover, it often happens that no advance poll is authorized to be established in the place of ordinary residence of a considerable number of these sailors.

Proxy voting is prescribed in the laws of Ontario for mariners, but the Chief Election Officer for that province informed me that while he did not know exactly the number of sailors who voted by proxy at the 1945 general election, he was under the impression that only a very small number of sailors availed themselves of that privilege.

It has been suggested that the sailors on the Great Lakes might be allowed to vote under a postal voting system such as they have in Australia. A system of this kind would require extensive amendments to the Dominion Elections Act.

Moreover, such a system requires a continuous list of electors, such as they have in Australia, and a perusal of the relevant regulations shows that postal voting in Australia is a complicated procedure.

Furthermore, if postal voting was provided for sailors on the Great Lakes it seems to me that it would necessarily have to be provided for every other class of electors who are absent from their home polling divisions on polling day.