

if it is not still open voting in that province. Suppose the majority in Prince Edward Island choose four representatives. The people of Prince Edward Island, in virtue of the Federal pact, have the right to send those four representatives to Parliament, for they have been chosen by the electorate of Prince Edward Island. Say the majority is 50 or 100. The British Americans have voted and their votes have been put in special sealed envelopes and can be distinguished, and when the envelopes are opened those four representatives chosen by the people are found not to have been elected at all, because 100, or 200, or 300 of those British Americans have been pleased to select the four constituencies of Prince Edward Island in which to cast their votes. Is not that repugnant to the whole economy of the British North America Act?

Hon. Mr. GORDON: No.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If the majority of the people of the province of Prince Edward Island find that by reason of the principles obtaining in Canada, they have not been able to give effect to their wishes, if the will of the majority of the people is defeated by those British Americans who have selected those four constituencies, that strikes me as being a violation of the spirit, if not of the letter, of the constitution. We must examine the situation from the point of view of the constitution. It seems to me that we are breaking faith with Prince Edward Island, to which province we promised four representatives, to be elected by the majority of the people. The vote of the majority may be wiped out by the imported vote of persons who have never been in touch with Prince Edward Island. This is where it seems to me there is a violation of the compact entered into by the various provinces.

Hon. G. W. FOWLER: Mr. Chairman, I notice that the honourable gentleman from Portage la Prairie is in favour of the soldiers having votes, considering that military service is at least equal to the property qualification. The only distinction he makes is that they should be segregated in some out-of-the-way districts cut out of our Northwest territory which is yet unorganized, and have representatives elected for those districts by the soldiers' votes. Does it not follow that if a man has the right, which he certainly has, to make a choice of the constituency in which he shall purchase his property, he has therefore the right to select the constituency in which he

shall vote. As military service is equivalent to property qualification, surely the man who has qualified by military service has the right to select the constituency in which he shall cast his vote; he is as much entitled to do so as the man with the property qualification. My honourable friend from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) goes further, though; he denies the right of the soldier to vote at all.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No, not the right of the soldier.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I mean the soldier from outside of Canada.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Who has never resided here.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: But who is a British subject; because only a British subject can vote; and British subjects are interested, if they are true British subjects. They have shown their devotion to the Empire to which they belong by enlisting for service.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Therefore we must say they are true British subjects. If so, they are interested in this part of the Empire as well as in the sea-girt island, or in Australia or any other part of the British Dominions. I think my honourable friend from De Lorimier cannot say that these men are without interest in the matter. My honourable friend must presume that these men are not intelligent, that they have no minds of their own, that they have no spirit with regard to this thing. I say to my honourable friend that those men who get a vote by reason of their military service will appreciate that franchise just as much as the men who acquired the right to vote by renting a place at \$5 or \$6 a month, as the honourable gentleman from Pictou (Hon. Mr. Tanner) has said. They will appreciate the honour that has been conferred upon them in giving them the franchise in Canada; they will take it as being in some way a reward for what they have done in enlisting in our Canadian Forces and fighting for the Empire; and, appreciating that honour, they will guard it just as sacredly as would other men, who may not vote according to their conscience, but rather according to inducements. That being the case, I do not think my honourable friend need be apprehensive that these men are going to be herded and placed in certain constituencies where, in political parlance, they may be said to do the most