

act, there is no inherent giving of the right of franchise in connection with it. That question may arise a little later on one of the subsequent sections, but I do not think we need consider it until we come to subsequent sections under which certain disfranchisement does take place.

Mr. GREEN: Before we leave the question of naturalization I would ask the minister whether it is the intention to set up at this session a committee to consider the whole question of naturalization? If he will remember, two special committees appointed to review the defence of Canada regulations in 1940 and 1941 recommended that there should be a special committee of this house to consider naturalization. Would not this present session be an appropriate time to have that done?

Mr. McLARTY: I would reply that, while it is hardly germane to the particular subject now under consideration, I am aware that the committee recommended that a naturalization committee should be set up, and all I can say at the moment is that while that matter has not been finally dealt with, it is receiving very careful consideration.

Mr. HANSELL: In reference to those who are qualified to vote, it has already been mentioned that there are certain citizens of this country who refused to register in the national registration that was held about a year and a half ago. I cannot bring myself to see how a citizen who refuses to register under a specific law of this country should be permitted to vote on an issue of this kind which, after all, is an issue concerning the carrying on of the war. I believe that at the time of the national registration it was intended to become effective in the mobilization of our human and material resources. At least we can say that as a result of the mobilization act a new ministry was created, ostensibly at least to look after the registration and the calling up of our human resources for war service. But here are citizens who absolutely refused to register, and yet we are permitting them to vote on this plebiscite. I do not think that is right. I know of certain individuals who did register but who, because of some little discrepancy in the answers they gave to the questions asked, have been arrested and punished. I have myself taken up one or two cases of this kind with the proper authorities. Then surely the person who refused to register at all and regarded it as of no importance should not be free to vote on a question of this kind. I do not think it is right, and I there-

fore move, Mr. Chairman, that section 4, subsection 1, be amended by adding at the end thereof as paragraph (d) the following:

who produces his registration card at the time of voting.

Mr. COLDWELL: There is a great deal of merit in what the hon. member for Macleod says, but on the other hand I would point out that the registration certificate which we received was not of a kind that would keep permanently. I doubt very much whether our farmers of the west, who wear an ordinary pair of overalls, and sometimes a rather ragged pair of overalls under the conditions under which they have had to live in recent years, could produce their certificates immediately. They may have mislaid them or left them at home, or they may have become worn and been destroyed. I know that when someone made a similar suggestion I wondered whether I had my own registration certificate with me. I remembered that I had taken it from my pocket when I went to Great Britain last November, and I wondered whether I had it with me at that moment. Fortunately I had slipped it into a corner of my pocket book and was able to put my hand on it. I am convinced that while the suggestion of the hon. member for Macleod has a great deal of merit, it would lead to the disfranchising of many people. Many would not even go to the trouble of looking for their registration certificates, and many others probably would not be able to put their hands on those flimsy bits of paper which were given us as certificates a year ago last August.

Mr. REID: Perhaps you would not have to go far in this house, either.

Mr. COLDWELL: Probably the hon. member for New Westminster is right, that if we of this house were suddenly asked to produce our registration certificates—

Mr. REID: Oh, I have mine.

Mr. COLDWELL: —some of us might have difficulty in doing so. Like the hon. member for New Westminster, I have mine, I know, because I happened to look for it the other day.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hansell moves:

That section 4, subsection 1, be amended by adding at the end thereof after paragraph (c) another paragraph:

(d) who produces his registration card at the time of voting.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Chairman, I think I had the honour of making the suggestion in the house on the resolution stage, although, I suppose, my hon. friends on