

Our next clause, which defines what is covered by the term "military electors", is:

"Military elector" means and includes every person, male or female, who, being a British subject,—whether or not ordinarily resident in Canada and whether or not a minor or an Indian, has been, while within or without Canada, appointed, enlisted, enrolled or called out for active service as one of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Militia on active service, or the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, or has been, while within Canada, appointed, enlisted or enrolled as one of the British Royal Flying Corps, Royal Naval Aviation Service, or Auxiliary Motor Boat Patrol Service, whether as officer, soldier, sailor, dentist, nurse, aviator, mechanic or otherwise, and who remains one of any such forces or services or has been honourably discharged therefrom.

I have been doing some thinking myself as to whether the terms of that clause are sufficiently wide to cover every class that ought to be covered, and I am making note of this suggestion with the view of making such amendments as may be necessary to make it quite sure that we are covering everybody. It was pointed out to me that it is desirable to include persons who are undoubtedly Canadians but who are on service in the Imperial military force, or possibly in the French military force, as being reservists. I said that we had considered that, that we thought it desirable that they should have votes and that the reason they did not figure in our present definition rested on the difficulty of providing machinery to give them votes. Since the matter was brought to my attention I have given it some further consideration and what occurs to me is that even if we cannot provide machinery to give votes to these men, it would be particularly desirable that we should include them in the category of people entitled to vote because many of these men find themselves in conditions where they will be able to reach our presiding officer who is taking the votes of the Canadian force and if we recognize their right to vote, then they would be enabled to vote by that circumstance. Perhaps it is not a satisfactory reason for not recognizing his right to vote that we cannot provide special machinery for him. In that connection, I intend asking and should be glad to have any observations by hon. gentlemen about this definition of military voter, because it is a very important provision of the Act. I had intended, after hearing the different suggestions that would be made, to ask that that clause should stand so that, before it is finally passed, we shall have made as sure as we can to have included in the words "military voter" every person who fairly

ought to be recognized as forming part of any force, whether actually combatants or members of a subsidiary force, telegraphers or others, actually taking part in the struggle in their respective capacities, and who have at least this much connection with Canada, that they either form part of a Canadian force and therefore, as soldiers, are Canadians, or, failing that, that they should have a connection with Canada which at the present moment it seems to me would have to consist of something in the nature of permanent residence in Canada.

Mr. SINCLAIR: We all agree with the minister that it is of great importance that he should find language comprehensive enough to include every real military elector; but there is also the danger that we may make the language too broad and include people who are not intended to be classed as military electors. For example, I see in this definition that we have included "such persons as are appointed." That is a very comprehensive word, and it may include people who are not meant to be included. I am told that there are scores and hundreds of young men and women appointed by the patronage committee of Ottawa who are serving in the Plaza building and many other places in this city, who are doing military work in the sense of clerical work. I am not sure that this language is not broad enough to include men and women of that class, and I do not think it is the intention of the minister to allow every person who assists in any kind of work, like clerical work in Ottawa or Halifax, to vote under this Act. I should like the minister to look into that and see if my criticism is well taken.

Mr. DOHERTY: It says "appointed, enlisted, enrolled or called out for active service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force." These young women employed in the buildings here have never been appointed as members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Mr. SINCLAIR: What is the significance of the word "appointed"?

Mr. DOHERTY: A private enlists, but an officer is appointed.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I mentioned, when the Speaker was in the Chair, on the second reading, an objection which I entertain very strongly to this clause. It defines "military elector" to mean and include "every person, male or female, who, being a British subject whether or not ordinarily