

commanding officer for the performance of any military or naval duty, or for rest, cure, exercise, or training;

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: What is the purpose of the words "under a commanding officer"? Might it not be possible that there might be a number of military electors assembled at any of the places specified in the subsection but they might not be under a commanding officer? Perhaps these words are rather restrictive in their effect.

Mr. DOHERTY: On inquiry I was informed that at all of these places there would always be somebody found in command. If we struck that out you might have a group of soldiers gathered together in some place which would be very unsuitable to take a ballot. I am not suggesting any improper place in that regard but it was thought well, in so far as the holding of polls are concerned, that they should be held in every place where you could find any gathering of soldiers for any purpose whatsoever who were assembled under the direction of an officer. Furthermore, we make provision that a soldier who might not be able to reach a poll of that kind, and who is exposed to the loss of his vote, is allowed to tender it and have it taken at the place where he is and where, of course, there is present a presiding officer provided with the necessary equipment to take the vote. I was assured, as coming from the military authorities, that I would be running no risk of missing any place where soldiers are properly gathered together by leaving in this provision. On the other hand, I do not think it would be desirable that we should include in the definition such a place, for instance, as a boarding house where half a dozen soldiers might be gathered together. If half a dozen soldiers are gathered together at any place for pleasure, say, it would hardly be a suitable place to hold a poll.

Mr. NESBITT: A "commanding officer" would not mean an officer of any particular rank but whoever was in command at the place?

Mr. DOHERTY: Yes. For instance, at a hospital, I understand it is the medical officer who is in command.

Mr. KNOWLES: If there were some wireless operators in the Cape Breton county, why would they be defined as military electors?

[Mr. Doherty.]

Mr. DOHERTY: We have not made any special mention of wireless operators but any person who has been—

—appointed, enlisted, enrolled or called out for active service as one of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, whether as officer, soldier, sailor, dentist, nurse, aviator, mechanician or otherwise, and who remains one of any such forces or services or has been honourably discharged therefrom.

is included as a voter. The words were intended to be large enough to cover everybody in whatever capacity he was acting who was enrolled, or enlisted, or appointed, to any service which makes him a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Mr. KNOWLES: The reason I asked that was that when you co-relate it with the expression "under a commanding officer" it may have a bearing on the case of a young man from my constituency. He had himself trained in wireless telegraphy, was taken on by Mr. Edwards, the naval man here, and for awhile was at sea. Only a few days ago I had a letter from him and he is at some lonely place in charge of a wireless station by the sea. As I understand it, although I speak subject to correction, he is there without any commanding officer over him, simply receiving and transmitting messages by the wireless system. He is not "assembled under a commanding officer."

Mr. DOHERTY: The right to the franchise does not depend on being in the army. If he forms part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force then he is entitled to vote. The word "camp" is put there so that it might be used without regard to the particular situation of the places at which it is provided polls shall be held. I am assuming that this wireless telegrapher is a part of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces and therefore a military voter within the meaning of the Act.

Mr. KNOWLES: He is in the Naval Service.

Mr. DOHERTY: If he is, then he is a voter.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I think these operators are civilians.

Mr. DOHERTY: I understand that this class of persons is organized and recognized as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. It will be noticed that we have specially mentioned mechanicians in our enumeration of the people who now form part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.