

position pointed out by the hon. member for Laval, and would have difficulty of their own knowledge in defining the limits of particular constituencies in Canada, but I hardly think that they would have passed the period of training, which in many cases extends over a period of six months, without finding out something, if not about the electoral divisions, at least about the village or town or city in which they enlisted; and if they found that out, they would at least know something of that constituency. I do not think it unreasonable to suppose that they would hit upon the particular constituency in which they enlisted. But that is one thing, and it is another thing to impose them absolutely on that constituency.

One suggestion was, that we allocate the votes to the places where the soldiers enlisted. If we did that, we should have an undue proportion of these men landed into constituencies which happened to be good enlisting centres. The suggestion was also made that these soldiers should be made to vote at the address that they gave in their attestation papers, and I may say that that was a method that suggested itself as having much to commend it, and I believe it was the method that was adopted in Australia, but we did not get very far with that before it was pointed out that with that too, you would get an undue proportion—a large number of drifting people, so to speak—who would give their address as being in the place where they attested.

For instance, with regard to the first contingent that system would probably have captured for somebody the county of Quebec, because in and around Valcartier there would have been a large number of people who never had any connection with that county at all, but who had named as their addresses certain places in that neighbourhood. So that there, instead of creating the possibility of hiving people, you were getting a certainty of hiving people. It is possible that some people may endeavour to use influence to induce these men who are given the opportunity of indicating their place of voting to vote in one place rather than in another. But before we get through with this Bill we will see that there is the same opportunity for exercising that influence on the part of one party as there is on the part of another. It is true that the presiding officers are, as in this country the returning officers are, to be named by the Government, and that the presiding officers are to name the deputy presiding officers, just as in this country the returning officer names the deputy

returning officer. But provisions are made to secure representation for the different parties interested. All these presiding and deputy presiding officers are to be taken in the military forces; all this is to be done within what might be called the military home. Why is it presumed that there will be greater power on the part of one party than on the part of another to indicate places which they would desire these men to select as their places of voting? The field is open, I have no doubt that there may be requests, solicitations or suggestions that the men vote in one place rather than in another. But why we should have reason to anticipate that, from one side more than from the other, there should be an endeavour to concentrate these people on any particular constituencies, I am quite at a loss to see. When we cannot find any method of defining where these people are voting, without actually by the law itself making them swamp some particular constituencies, why should we think that it would be a greater evil that that might possibly happen under this system than that it would certainly happen under the other? I do not want to close the door upon any suggestion that will meet the real difficulty that presents itself. For my part, I think that these men ought to be given the vote. As has been pointed out, this legislation is only for an election that may be held during the present war. We are not going to make these men voters forever; we are going to recognize them as voters so long as they are soldiers.

Mr. GERMAN: But their votes will have an effect long after this war is finished.

Mr. C. A. WILSON: So long as there is a general election during the war, not a by-election?

Mr. DOHERTY: Not a by-election, no. But to answer the question of the member for Laval: I quite believe that a large number of soldiers who have actually been resident in Canada will not be able to give the name of their electoral division. I could pick out numbers of people in the city of Montreal who, I am quite satisfied, if somebody did not explain to them once in a while when an election is coming on where the boundary line runs between St. Anne and St. Antoine, would not be quite sure whether they were voters in the one district or in the other. And there will be soldiers on the other side who will not be able to give that information. But we have not left the matter in the position in which the hon. member for Laval supposes it to