

candidates; they may have a preference for one candidate in one party or the other, but here it is presented in this concrete form: you are a man voting for the British Empire, voting in the field, and voting for the King; and against it are the rebels, the insurrectionists, those who are trying to destroy law and order, and by the presence of the soldiers in the field they ask each man who votes Liberal to put a stigma against his name because they know every man who votes. The ballot has for its object the concealment of the individual and his sentiments; but here they are all canvassed before the election; they will vote in squads, they will vote in platoons, they will vote for the Government because they dare not vote for the Opposition; and that is the condition we put before the soldiers in the field.

Hon. Mr. MCKAY (Cape Breton)—How can my hon. friend reconcile the statement which he is just now making with the fact that in section 4 there is this provision:

4. The volunteer may thereupon mark the ballot paper as a vote for the Government or the Opposition or for the independent candidate or for any person for whom he desires to vote, in the presence of the said officer, but in such a manner as not to disclose to the officer, or any other person, how he is voting, and shall fold the ballot paper so that it cannot be read, and shall then place the same in the envelope upon the back of which shall be endorsed a certificate in form C, which certificate shall be signed by such officer, and shall securely close the envelope.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—Hand-picked; you have them all on the ticket.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE—I will answer my hon. friend.

The CHAIRMAN—The questions refer to clause 4. That will be reached after a while. I hated to declare the hon. gentleman out of order, but he has been out of order for a long while. I think it is understood that we are to get through this Bill before very long and if every person wants to make a speech as long as my hon. friend has, outside the question, the debate will last all day.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—You can say any old thing you want to in committee.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE—I want to say, with all due deference to you, Mr. Chairman, that your notions of order and mine are totally different. You have ruled in one way, and I think in another, and probably act in another. Now, in regard to the question that was put to me by my hon.

friend, first of all I tell him that I have experience in military votes, and I may tell him also that if he had listened as well to the first part of my remarks as he has to that part of my remarks, he would have seen that before those stipulations are to be carried out—that is, the ballot paper to be marked—the men are canvassed in a certain way before they go to vote, and they are marched down. It is quite clear that they might vote either way before the officer, but the influence to make him vote has been exercised in a pernicious way before he arrives before the officer. All those officers, or the great majority of them, are Conservatives, and will let things be done which they should not. I know the military service from the top right down to the bottom, because I have been amongst them, and know how they vote and know how it is carried out. Now, does that answer my hon. friend's question? Now, may I tell you, Mr. Chairman, I know that you would not rule in the slightest iota out of the extreme interpretation of the law of Parliament, and I think you would not do anything adverse to me; and in deference to you, only to you, because you want to preserve entire order on this question and fair play and not to give to one person who only speaks very occasionally in the House, and then at no great length, when he is expressing his sentiments on a subject that is vital, which is closely identified with our political rights, that in this question you would not inflict the extreme severity of your ruling upon such an insignificant individual as myself.

The clause was adopted.

On clause 2, subclause 3:

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—I do not propose to go into the details of this Bill, but I must ask to be allowed to say a few words on its general features. In this Parliament we have the habit, and the very fortunate habit of looking to the mother of Parliaments for our example not only so far as Parliament is concerned, but also in measures dealing with the development and the application of political institutions. It seems to me that we should examine this Bill in the light of such institutions as applied in England. If we examine into this Bill what do we find? We find that it is a Bill which makes an altogether new departure. Heretofore the franchise has never been exercised by classes. It has never been done in England. But this Bill treats the military forces as a class, and as such they are given the exer-