

third reading would be taken not later than Saturday. There has been one day in committee already. We purpose giving three more, which would seem to me to be ample for all the discussion that would be required in committee. That would bring the third reading on Saturday. It is perfectly true that Saturday is a very inconvenient day, but I thought, under the circumstances, as we have been here for about eight months, including the vacation, that hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House, who live near Ottawa and who usually go home on Saturdays and Sundays, might be willing to stay on this one occasion in order that we might expedite the business of the House. It seems to me that the proposal I made for three more days' discussion of this Bill was a reasonable one, and that we might have the vote on Saturday. Further than that, I said last night, and I repeat again, that we are willing to sit as late in the evening as may be desired, and I am also willing to commence morning sessions to-morrow in order to give further time for discussion.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: My hon. friend must realize that it is not conducive to the making of agreements to have them offered under threat. We are told that we are to do this or we are to have the closure. So far as I am concerned, I do not intend to prolong the discussion one minute more than is necessary for a thorough understanding of the Bill. Under such circumstances I will not make any agreement whatever, and if my right hon. friend will not be satisfied with that, I cannot say more. I have no intention at all to prolong the discussion.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am sorry that, under the circumstances, my right hon. friend leaves me no alternative except to make the motion. I did not make the proposal to him in the sense of any threat. I discussed it last night, not in that sense at all, as hon. gentlemen opposite, I think will bear me out. I was endeavouring to place before my right hon. friend what I thought was an exceedingly reasonable proposal so far as the further discussion of the Bill in committee is concerned. I beg to move:

That the consideration of sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and of the schedule and title of Bill No. 133, The War-Time Elections Act, shall be the first business of the committee and shall not further be postponed.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Mr. Speaker, with the leave of the Chair, I beg to say that this motion should be given in committee.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I will move it in committee. I think my hon. friend is right.

THE HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON THE WAR-TIME ELECTIONS ACT—RULE 17B APPLIED.

House again in committee on Bill No. 133, The War-time Elections Act.—Sir Robert Borden—Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I beg to move:

That the consideration of sections 1, 2, 3 4 and 5, and of the schedule and title of Bill No. 133, The War-Time Elections Act, shall be the first business of the committee and shall not further be postponed.

Motion declared carried: Yeas, 43; nays, 25.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I desire to ask a question before we proceed with the Bill. Is the asking of a question equivalent to a 20-minute speech? If one asks a question, may he afterwards speak?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: You have to take 20 minutes to ask it.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: A member of the House has always the right to ask a question.

Mr. PUGSLEY: If a member is on his feet once that is all the right he has.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I would like to inquire of the Government if they have any statement to make regarding the exclusion of the relatives of those engaged in the naval forces in Canada. An answer was promised yesterday.

Mr. HAZEN: Perhaps I had better give a short statement of fact in committee in regard to what constitutes the naval forces of Canada. The Naval Service Act of 1910 defines naval forces:

"Naval forces" means those naval forces organized for the defence and protection of the Canadian coasts and trade, or engaged, as the Governor in Council may from time to time direct.

There are employed under that definition in the naval forces of Canada about 3,882 men altogether: on the east coast 2,023, on the west coast 652, and in the overseas division, that is Canadians, men enlisted in the Canadian navy serving overseas with the British navy chiefly, 1,202.

Speaking briefly, the term would include all men on vessels that fly the white ensign and are at present engaged in the Naval Service. That would not include vessels that are engaged in the fisheries protection fleet, as the men on those vessels do not come within the definition of Naval Service given in this Act, nor would it include the cadets at the Royal