

particular anti-fascists are neither enemies nor aliens. They are Canadian citizens; and I should feel that it was a serious miscarriage of justice if these men were not allowed the privilege of voting in the affirmative on this plebiscite. I wonder whether the minister could give me any assurance that this particular group of men, interned under these regulations, would have the privilege of voting affirmatively on this plebiscite.

Mr. McLARTY: I am afraid I would be unable to give the assurance for which the hon. member asks. I am afraid I could not give any assurance as to who would vote in the affirmative on the ballot that will be submitted. However, I know the hon. member will realize—and I am not trying to take lightly her question—that, after all, if a person is interned, irrespective of the nature of his sympathies which caused him to be interned, it would scarcely be a regular or proper procedure to allow him to vote on a question of such serious import.

Mr. FAIR: Subsection 2 of section 4 reads:

(2) The persons disqualified from voting as ordinary voters at the plebiscite shall be those persons disqualified from voting under the provisions of paragraphs (d) to (k), both inclusive, and paragraph (m) of subsection two of section fourteen of the Dominion Elections Act 1938....

I have particular reference to paragraph (k) of section 14 of the Dominion Elections Act, which reads as follows:

(k) in any province, every person who is an inmate of an institution which is maintained by any government or municipality for the housing and maintenance of the poor, if such person is by the law of that province disqualified from voting at an election of a member of the legislative assembly of that province, and did not serve in the military, naval or air forces of Canada in the war of 1914-1918.

I was born poor, as I believe we all were. When we die we shall all be in the same class again. But some of us to-day are in fairly comfortable circumstances, while others are fabulously rich. Others again are so poor that they have to be crowded together in institutions and supported by some government or municipality. I do not feel that we are dealing justly with these people. As I have pointed out on other occasions, if they had been given that to which they were entitled during their lifetime, they would not now have to be in institutions of this kind. We are sending men and materials overseas to fight for democracy, and I should like to see democracy practised at home so that those who come back will have something worth coming back to. They should not have the spectacle of seeing perhaps their fathers, mothers, brothers or sisters put

away in these institutions and being deprived of their right to vote. In order to bring this matter before the committee—and I hope to get a favourable decision—I move, seconded by the hon. member for Camrose (Mr. Marshall):

That line 21 in subsection 2 of section 4 be amended to read:

"under the provisions of paragraph (d) to (j), both inclusive."

If this amendment is carried—and I earnestly hope it will be—it will have the effect of giving to the people of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and British Columbia the same rights as are extended to the citizens of the other five provinces.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): What provinces permit persons in the institutions referred to in paragraph (k) to vote?

Mr. McLARTY: They are estopped from voting in the provinces mentioned by the hon. member.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The other five provinces allow them to vote.

Amendment (Mr. Fair) negatived: yeas, 12; nays, 57.

Mr. STIRLING: I think it was agreed that paragraph (i) of subsection 2 of section 14 of the Dominion Elections Act refers to the Japanese race so far as it is effective in Canada. If that is the case, to whom does paragraph (c) in this section refer?

Mr. McLARTY: Paragraph (i) of subsection 2 of section 14 of the elections act applies to Japanese in British Columbia. By virtue of the additional section in this bill it is extended to those throughout Canada whose origin is that of an enemy country.

Mr. STIRLING: Paragraph (i) will apply to all nine provinces.

Subsection 2 agreed to.

Section agreed to.

On section 5—Persons who have voted not to be exempted from military service.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The minister was going to make a statement on this section.

Mr. McLARTY: There may be other hon. members who wish to speak on this section, but if not, I should like to deal somewhat carefully with the point raised by the leader of the opposition and to give an exact explanation in answer to his inquiry. It will be noted that this section does not exclude anyone from voting; but, on the other hand, if any person does vote, he is precluded from any subsequent postponement or exemption