

side, even if he be a minor, should have a vote. If my hon. friend, in common with every other hon. gentleman in the House, desires to recognize the rights of citizenship of a man who has given service, he should not open the door to possibilities of unfairness and of difficulties which, no matter what the result of the election contest might be, would leave a blot on the fair name of Canada. It is absurd that it should be possible, for instance, to hire ten men on one of our naval service boats—men whose only qualification to vote is that before election day they were placed on that boat. No one would seriously eulogize the services of such men, because they would be doing nothing worth talking about. I am sure that the hon. gentleman will approach the consideration of this measure from the desire that we all have on this side that the man who has made sacrifice and given service, provided he has had residence in this country, I care not how short, may know who to vote for; may know who the people of this country are and what they want.

Mr. NESBITT: Let us not illustrate our patriotism—according to the Johnstonian definition of that word—by going too far in a case of this kind. I suppose we all like to be called patriots, some of us, apparently, more than others. Subsection 3 of section 3 is the ultimate result of the clause that we are now discussing. A person who might be a patriot but who might not be honest in elections, might gather up a great many votes, from fellows who did not care whom they voted for, and apply them all to one particular constituency. I am sure the Minister of Justice has nothing of that kind in his mind, because I do not think he is that kind of man; but it is wise to see that nothing like that shall be done. It is all right to talk about being loyal to the country; nevertheless, no matter what else we want, we are desirous that the country shall be honestly governed. We should not, under the head of patriotism, go into anything that is not honest. The member for New Westminster (Mr. Taylor) has said that ordinarily the men are trained in Canada for a certain length of time and that they would, therefore, have certain residence in Canada. There is no reason why my hon. friend should not provide that there should be a certain residence in Canada. I am willing that every person who has enlisted or has gone to the front should have a vote, provided he is a British subject; but I am not

willing that corruption should follow our anxiety to give these men that privilege. The member for North Perth (Mr. Morphy) pointed out that these men would get pension, separation allowance, etc. With that we all agree; it is their right, no matter where they come from, provided they enlisted with the Canadian forces. But let us not, I repeat, under the head of patriotism do anything that will react injuriously upon the fair conduct of the election. I am sure that we all desire that the election shall be conducted properly and honestly; I can say that for the Minister of Justice, anyway—and certainly that is all I want. I do think that subsection 3 is a very dangerous provision to insert in this Bill.

Mr. DOHERTY: It does not surprise me that at first glance this provision should look like an objectionable one. Some hon. gentlemen have said that no argument can be made in support of it, but I think that we have already had fairly strong and conclusive argument in support of it. But if hon. gentlemen had been called upon to think this out as it has been my duty to do, they would see that a good deal may be said in the way of argument in favour of this proposal. I do not think it is an extraordinary thing to say that the man who fights for this country evinces interest in the country by doing so. The member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) suggests that it is a mere matter of convenience that he comes, say, from the United States, and enlists here. There may be cases of that kind, but I know it to be a fact that, at least since the United States has taken part in the war, facilities have been afforded in that country for the enrolment in British forces of British subjects in the United States. If a man says: No, I want to be enrolled in the Canadian forces, he does so for some reason; he has a preference, perhaps, for this country. The member for New Westminster pointed out that if a man spent six months in this country in any other occupation and was settled down in that occupation when the making out of the lists was in hand, he would be entitled to vote, assuming he was a British subject. We say to that man: You spent your time making money in this country; you came here, perhaps, merely because there was an exceptional opportunity in connection with the war to work on munitions or something of that kind; we will give you a vote; we will not investigate what you know about the interests of this country; we will not investigate what your degree of intelligence is. But you, Mr. Soldier, you settle down in this