

Mr. NESBITT: As a matter of fact if he moves out of a district after a certain time, he would not have a vote at all because he would not get into the city in time to have his name placed on the list.

Mr. CARVELL: The Prime Minister asked if we had any suggestions to make as to section 3. I cannot understand this section, although I suppose there may be some explanation for it. I cannot understand why you should disfranchise a man who is a naturalized British subject, who was born in an Allied country but whose mother tongue was that of an enemy country. There must be a body of people of that class, because otherwise the Government would not have inserted this section. Every one of these sections means something; they are put in this Bill for a purpose. Will the minister please explain why the proposed to disfranchise people who speak the German or Austrian language, but who are not Germans or Austrians by birth and who are British subjects by naturalization? I presume there may be Russians of that class who might speak the Austrian language.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: German or Austrian.

Mr. CARVELL: It would be more likely Austrian than German, because we know that in southwestern Russia, Russians and Austrians intermingle and are practically the same race. Why is it that if a man is Russian-born but speaks the Austrian language, and still is a British subject, he should not have the right to vote?

Mr. MEIGHEN: There are a number of the very class described by my hon. friend, and the fact of the matter is that in their sympathies, in all their feelings in relation to this war, they are distinguishable from the German or Austrian-born. I presume in most cases they have very recently come from Germany and Austria. Moreover, in some cases they have developed a hatred of Russia.

Mr. CARVELL: I am speaking about the man who came from Russia, the man who was born in Russia.

Mr. MEIGHEN: He may have developed a hatred of that country. You may look up his naturalization certificate and see where he was born, but beyond that there is no distinction in sympathy whatever between those foreign people, provided they speak the enemy language, whether they are born in Austria or across the bor-

der. I do not know how many of them there are.

Mr. CARVELL: This is putting a tremendous power into the hands of a returning officer. It is about as vicious a feature as I have seen in this transaction.

Mr. MEIGHEN: If a man claims that he is wrongfully disfranchised, all he has to do is to vote and have his case tried.

Mr. CARVELL: My hon. friend knows how valueless that is to any man. If he gets his vote tied up in that way, he might as well throw it into the river.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think so.

Mr. CARVELL: This is on a par with the rest of the Bill. The Government are disfranchising Austrians, Germans, British subjects; they are disfranchising women, in fact, it seems to me that they are disfranchising any one who they think will vote Liberal.

Mr. McCRAVEY: Near the town of Rosthern in Saskatchewan there is a settlement of Russians from a community formed by them in province of Saratov, which is in the Ural mountains away from the German border altogether. Their ancestors went there over a hundred years ago. They speak both Russian and German, but German is the language of the community. So far as I am aware, their sympathies are not with the Germans in this war, but under the provisions of this Bill as it is drawn, those people will be disfranchised.

Mr. MEIGHEN: If their mother tongue is Russian, they will not be disfranchised.

Mr. McCRAVEY: But the language which is used in their homes, their mother tongue, is German. They belong to the Lutheran church, and their associations rather are German.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Is there not in Canada a number of Belgians who speak German?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have never heard of any.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: That is the language of about one-third of the Belgians.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Some of them speak Flemish, but not German.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: There are a great number employed in the coal mines of Nova Scotia, and I know some of them speak German. It would not do to give the power to a returning officer to distinguish