

we merely extend to them the privilege they would enjoy if they were in Canada. Am I right?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—No, we have extended the franchise as to many of them, in fact as to all.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—If this Bill is to stand over until to-morrow there is one phase that I do not think has been taken up in this House, and I do not think in the House of Commons either; it is the intention to give all soldiers on active service an opportunity to vote.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED— No, not all.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—All who, if they were in Canada, would have a vote in Canada?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Then I wish to inform the hon. gentleman that there are several thousand of our naturalized Canadian citizens who are fighting in the trenches and who have been there from the commencement of the war. I refer to the reservists who joined their regiments in England, Ireland, France and Belgium. I know that I am safe in saying that a good many thousands of those people went from western Canada. Now, no provision is made in this Bill for taking their votes though I think it is just as practicable to do so in their case as in that of the people referred to. You are making an invidious distinction between the volunteer who has gone to the Old Country in a regiment from Canada, and the citizen of Canada who has gone back to join his regiment in England, Ireland, Scotland, Belgium or France—the reservist. I know that some of those people have lived in Manitoba during the last 10 or 15 years, that they are naturalized subjects in Canada, coming back from France and Belgium, yet there is no provision for them in this Bill.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I think the reason is quite manifest. The Government of Canada has official knowledge as to all members of the militia who are upon active service, but as to reservists they naturally would have no information whatsoever, any more than they would have as to any person returning to his native country at any time.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON—Would you not think the reservist would be entitled to exercise his franchise if he had been here 10 or 15 years?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes, he would be; I am not questioning that. What I am questioning is the passing of legislation whereby we could legislate for those of whom we have no official knowledge whatsoever. We have official knowledge as to every member of the militia, but it would be utterly impossible for the Government of Canada to investigate the case of every alleged reservist who might appear in France or Belgium or any other country, and say: "I came from Canada and am entitled to vote."

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I am inclined to think there would be no trouble at all in getting a list of those reservists, because they could not very well live in Canada without the permission of the Government, especially if ordered to return to the colours. There would be no more difficulty in getting a list from the consuls representing the different countries of all those reservists who returned than there would be in getting a list of the volunteers who went to the front.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—I understand that the hon. leader of the Opposition does not intend to speak to-night. If so, does he intend to move the adjournment of the debate? In that case I suppose it is better, especially for those who are against the principle of the Bill, to give their views now. I am against the principle of the Bill, and shall vote against it, and against any amendment that may be offered, because, being against the very principle of this Bill, it is time lost to discuss amendments. I do not like to speak before the leader of the Opposition, so if he intends to make some remarks in a general way, I am willing to give way to him—

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Answer your own leader.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—I am not answering any leader, but if the leader of the Opposition, or any one else is willing to speak on the principle of the Bill before the second reading and before adjourning the debate, I am willing to give way, as being one of the humblest and youngest members of the House.

But if the leader of the Opposition intends to move the adjournment of the debate, I think it is just as well for me to express my views to-night. It being so understood, though not wishing to speak after the leader of the Government I may be allowed to speak now, and urge that the principle of the Bill is wrong, and it is just as well to