

soldiers in the United Kingdom than that they should be worried by canvassers and pestered by political agents for six weeks on end. The very suggestion is preposterous. Should two opposing sets of political agents be allowed to harry soldier voters for six weeks, the situation developed would be most scandalous. The expense would be terrific. The struggle for votes would be bound to produce deplorable results. The very idea of the thing is revolting to decency and common sense.

It should not be necessary to do more than call the attention of the Government to these glaring absurdities and anomalies in the Soldiers' Vote Act, to lead to a complete revision of its terms without delay. The six weeks elapsing between nomination and election, under the Provincial Elections Act, afford ample time for locating the British Columbia

vote, distributing ballot boxes, ballots and all the necessary paraphernalia. For taking the vote not more than one day is necessary and election day here and in the United Kingdom should be the same, namely September 14. This will reduce the interference with military arrangements to the minimum, lessen the expense, rid the camps and hospitals of unwelcome interfering civilians and save British Columbia from being regarded as an unmitigated nuisance. Under section 17 of the act, power is conferred on the lieutenant-governor-in-council to make any regulations not inconsistent with the spirit of the act which may be deemed necessary, advisable or convenient. All the changes we urge are not only advisable and convenient, but absolutely necessary if this province is to retain any reputation for common sense and ordinary decency.

THE SOLDIERS' VOTE ACT

(The Sun, Wednesday, July 26, 1916)

As we pointed out before, a comparison of the Soldiers' Vote Act of this province with the federal Act of 1915 must be unobjectionable from a Conservative point of view as the federal Act is the product of a Conservative administration.

Under the federal Act the conduct of the elections in the United Kingdom is placed in the hands of the secretary of the High Commissioner of Canada, Mr. W. L. Griffith, a Liberal in politics. Under the Bowser Act the entire election management is entrusted to Sir Richard McBride, recently appointed to his position by Mr. Bowser himself as part of a conspiracy to divide the two most lucrative and honorable positions in the gift of the people between themselves, to which the acquiescence of the Hon. Mr. Turner was secured by a liberal allowance of hush money.

Under the federal Act the secretary of the High Commissioner is required to send the ballot papers and envelopes to the chief paymaster of the Canadian forces, who must distribute them to the several regimental paymasters, by whom they are sent to the officers commanding squadrons, companies and batteries, etc. By these officers ballot papers are supplied to the volunteers under their command who shall take the necessary affidavit of qualification.

Under the Bowser Act Sir Richard McBride is empowered to appoint a presiding officer for each poll, and each presiding officer may appoint as many deputies and other officers as he likes. For holding military polls in Canada, within or without the province, and in Bermuda, the lieutenant-governor-in-council is empowered to appoint the presiding officer, who