

*Plebiscite Act*

cannot see my way clear now to change my view, turn around and vote for such a measure in which I do not believe, and which is not war to beat Hitler.

I am not one who has sat in power for years and passed pacifist measures and votes and supported pacifist measures now to turn around and pose as a super patriot. While I have great respect for my leader, who has done so well in the house, and great respect for his views, I cannot accept any measure so fatal to a total war effort as a plebiscite, which shifts responsibility for the defence of our country over to a vote which will hurt our war effort. That is why I voted for the six months' hoist—not because I am in sympathy with the movers, or anybody who voted for that amendment. I dealt with that a week ago, and showed I was out of sympathy with those who moved the six months' hoist to-day. I have a duty to perform, and I have done it to the best of my ability. I am not a yes-man or nodder, and "your leader is your policy; follow your leader," is not my way. I have already given my views at various stages in opposition to this bill, consistently and strongly.

Mr. ROBERT FAIR (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, before the main motion carries, I want to say a few words on subsection 2 of section 4 which reads in part as follows:

(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 2 of section 14 of the Dominion Elections Act, 1938. . . .

In order that the house may know what I am talking about, I will read paragraph (k) of subsection 2 of section 14 of the Dominion Elections Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot hear what the hon. member is saying. Is he speaking to a particular part of the bill?

Mr. FAIR: After explaining my point, Mr. Speaker, I intend to move an amendment. Paragraph (k) reads:

(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 am quite satisfied that this provision excluding inmates of a poorhouse from voting is unfair, unjust and undemocratic. We have been told on numerous occasions that after this war is over we are going to have a New

[Mr. Church.]

Order. In my opinion it is not necessary to wait until the war is over to bring at least some part of this New Order into effect, and I believe that the exclusion from this bill of the provisions of paragraph (k) which I have just read would be one of the best ways in which the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) could show the country his good faith in the New Order he proposes. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Camrose (Mr. Marshall):

That this bill be not now read a third time but that it be referred back to the committee of the whole with the instruction that they have power to amend it as follows: by striking out the words, "under the provisions of paragraphs (d) to (k)", in line 21 of section 4, paragraph 2, and substituting therefor the words, "under the provisions of paragraphs (d) to (j)."

I noticed on another occasion that a number of the members of this house were uncertain whether to vote for or against the amendment. Having had time to consult their conscience since then, they now have an opportunity to let us know their considered opinion. I should like very much to see the amendment I have proposed adopted unanimously.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am not quite sure whether I caught the point my hon. friend was making, but I gathered he was referring to persons in poorhouses being given the right to vote. If I recollect aright, that very point was brought up in committee of the whole and has already been voted on. In these circumstances I am inclined to think, Mr. Speaker, that the amendment is out of order. The point of order is that it has been voted upon already and disposed of.

Mr. HANSELL: Do I understand the Prime Minister to say that the amendment is out of order because a similar amendment was passed on in committee of the whole?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It had already been voted on and disposed of in committee of the whole.

Mr. HANSELL: I do not appreciate that point. If it is well taken, no one can propose on the third reading an amendment that has been proposed in committee.

Mr. MacINNIS: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, the rules are quite clear, so clear that I do not think there need be any misunderstanding. Standing order 77, citation 813, reads:

When a bill comes up for third reading a member may move that it be not now read a third time but that it be referred back to the committee of the whole for the purpose of amending it in any particular. The motion for third reading is debatable under standing order 38.