

around loaded with a trunk. I do not see that any conceivable injury results from our having the one form of ballot applicable to every constituency so long as we take every possible means to let the soldier know who the candidates are in his constituency and to permit him to vote for a candidate by name. That, of course, also is a matter of detail with regard to which, if an improved system can be suggested, it certainly will be welcome. But, as a result of the best thought that we have been able to give to the matter, that latter objection seemed to be an insuperable objection to the providing of specific ballots available for each man for the particular constituency in which he is entitled to vote.

Mr. GUTHRIE: How would it be if the ballot papers were left blank so that a soldier might vote for any person for whom he saw fit to vote? I think the classification in the printed ballot may be very unfair to some hon. members now sitting in this House. As I understand, the ballot is printed, "for the Government," or "for the Opposition." I have no doubt that in the coming election there may be a serious question as to where some members of the present House will stand. They may be independent. Those who are considered to be party men, at a time when we are trying to break down party lines, are going to have an advantage. I would, as a suggestion to the minister, say that the ballots ought to be printed with blank spaces and let the soldier himself write in the name of the constituency where-in he votes and strike out, "for the Government," or "for the Opposition."

Mr. DOHERTY: That is in the ballot at present.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is that provision?

Mr. DOHERTY: Yes, the ballot provides four distinct spaces.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That is too many.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. DOHERTY: A man may vote for the Government, he may vote for the Opposition, he may vote for any independent candidate, and, finally, there is a space which says "I vote for _____ and he can write in the name or names of the member or members that he votes for.

Mr. BRADBURY: It is all on one ballot?

Mr. DOHERTY: Yes. I appreciate the position of the man who wants to vote

[Mr. Doherty.]

for an individual candidate and I think it is most desirable that he should have the opportunity. The Bill provides ample means for the man who knows his constituency and knows his candidate and who votes for a particular candidate. All that is done by the other spaces on the ballot is to enable a man to vote who may, for instance, be uncertain as regards his particular constituency, or who under the conditions which exist over there, may not have received the information which we intend to endeavour in every way to have conveyed to him as to who the particular candidates are. It would be a most unfortunate thing if a man in that position should be deprived of any opportunity to vote at all. The form of ballot that we are providing in the Bill has all the advantages of enabling a man to vote for a particular candidate where his knowledge both of the constituency where he is entitled to vote and of the candidate running enables him to do so.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Would the voter not have to write in the name of the constituency himself and vote for, say, John Smith, Montreal?

Mr. DOHERTY: No, he does not require to write in the name of the constituency on the ballot.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it my duty to point out to hon. members that the motion before the House is for leave to introduce "The Military Voters Act, 1917," and it is not in order to proceed with a minute discussion of the details. On the second reading of the Bill the principle may be debated and in committee details may be discussed. It is neither in order, nor desirable, to go into minute details on the motion to introduce the Bill.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Whether that is the rule or not, I think that under the circumstances, I have a perfect right to ask a question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I think I have a perfect right to ask a question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. There is another rule to which I must direct the hon. gentleman's attention and that is that when the Speaker is addressing the House an hon. member must take his seat.

Mr. DOHERTY: I quite understand the rule and I have no desire to overstep the bounds of the proper proceeding upon the