

men from this Act, you are penalizing them for fighting for Canada, and making it plain to them that they were foolish to do this for so ungrateful a country, when, if they had stayed at home in Canada and declined to do their duty, they might have exercised the franchise and had a voice in determining whether other citizens of Canada should go to the front. It seems to me that we must of necessity give a vote to all British subjects who come to fight for us. I do not know what is the residence qualification in Ontario.

Mr. ARTHURS: Three months.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Twelve months.

Mr. TAYLOR: I am informed by a resident of Ontario that the residence qualification is three months. In the province of British Columbia you can exercise the franchise if you have been six months a resident in the province and one month resident in the electoral district where you propose to vote. Now as the period of training for a member of the Canadian expeditionary force is seldom less than six months, it may be taken for granted that any man who is serving with our forces abroad has had at least six months training either in Canada or abroad, and surely, residence in a Canadian trench in France ought to be regarded as equal to residence in Canada, seeing that the very best of Canada's manhood is on service in those trenches. It seems to me a monstrous proposition to tell any man on service with the Canadian forces abroad, and who may have been two or three years in the trenches, that because he joined the Canadian forces on coming to Canada he cannot vote, whereas if he had remained idle in Canada, or had come here to avoid military service, he would have been able to vote.

Mr. MACDONALD: The hon. member misapprehends the attitude of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. We are simply saying there is no justification for going back on the well settled policy which we all agreed upon in 1915, that the men should be resident in Canada for a certain period before being allowed to vote. We are simply saying that in 1915, after very mature deliberation, Parliament agreed on certain restrictions as to residence, and we can see no reason for making a change now. This measure provides that a man, for instance, who has been transferred to the Canadian forces in England shall have the vote, although he may never have been in

[Mr. Taylor.]

Canada at all. Now that does not seem reasonable. Section 2 says:

"Military elector" means and includes every person . . . whether or not a minor or an Indian, who has been, while within or without Canada, appointed, enlisted, enrolled or called out for active service.

Some of the men in the Bermuda regiments, for instance, have probably never been in Canada, because most of those regiments have gone direct to England. We can easily see how little sense there would be in giving a vote to a West Indian who had never been in Canada, or to a Britisher who had been drafted into the Canadian forces in England, and knew nothing at all about Canada. We say that that is a reasonable proposition. After all, the test of a man's right to vote is the test of citizenship and residence; the two go hand in hand together. And why should we now depart from that policy? A Britisher who happens to have been temporarily assigned to the Canadian forces may have a vote in England, and could vote at a general election there without any difficulty, and similarly, a West Indian would be able to vote in a West Indian election. That is quite reasonable, and all that we on this side of the House are asking is that the well-settled policy regarding residence shall be observed. It will also be noticed that under the provisions of this Bill the Canadian who has enlisted in an Imperial regiment in England—and quite a number of them have—is not entitled to vote. The right is confined to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Militia on active service, the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, the Flying Corps, and the Motor Boat Patrol. The Canadian who has enlisted in the British regiments on the other side is not given a vote.

Mr. DOHERTY: I have already said that we shall endeavour to meet that.

Mr. MACDONALD: We are here dealing with the definition of "Military elector," and my hon. friend has not included in the definition a Canadian citizen who is attached to a British regiment in England or France. A great many of my constituents are serving with the British regiments, and will thus be debarred from voting unless the clause is amended. I do not think we should give the vote to a minor who volunteers or is conscripted—I do not care which ever happens—just before the election, because he has not been away from Canada and has not endured any great privations. The man who has gone across to the other