

BAR AUSTRO-GERMANS FROM ALL ELECTIONS

Drastic Bill Introduced by Col. Currie, Aimed at Reservists

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)

Ottawa, May 31.—Prohibition of any citizen of Canada of Austro-German birth, who has not been naturalized for twenty-five years or served in the overseas forces, from voting or taking any part in any school, municipal, Provincial or Federal election until five years after the conclusion of the war, was the drastic proposal placed before Parliament to-day by Colonel J. A. Currie. Col. Currie introduced a bill to this effect, which was given its first reading. The bill as introduced is an amendment to the criminal code, since, its mover explained, an amendment to the Dominion franchise act would affect only Federal elections.

The text of the clauses is as follows:

"Any person who votes for any person for any public office, or who takes any active part in any election for any public office by becoming a candidate, speaking, writing, canvassing or driving voters to the polls, who was or is a citizen of any country now or at any time during the past five years at war with Great Britain or her allies or who was a subject of any country not allied with Great Britain or her allies which does not permit its citizens the rights of expatriation, or holds the doctrine of dual citizenship, or who was exiled or banished from any allied country, even though such person may have been granted naturalization in Canada or Great Britain, or may have his or her name on the voters' list, shall be deemed guilty of an offence under this act, and on conviction before a court of competent jurisdiction shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, together with forfeiture of civil rights and all property to the Crown.

"The above provisions shall not apply to any person who is serving or has served in his Majesty's forces, or has been a naturalized British subject resident in Canada for twenty-five years. The burden of proof as to such exceptions shall rest upon the voter.

"Any person giving such information as will lead to the conviction of any such person shall be entitled to one-third of all fines and forfeitures."

In an interview Col. Currie said that there were several other exceptions that he would bring before the House when the bill was under discussion, one being men of the Polish race born in Old Poland under Prussian rule, or men born in Alsace or Lorraine, or Germans who have been for more than thirty-five years resident in Canada who have failed to take out their papers because in earlier days there did not seem to be any necessity for doing so, many of them being refugees from the Prussian Revolution. These men might also be allowed to vote; in addition, the fathers of any sons serving in the war on the side of Great Britain or her allies. The bill, he said, is aimed at the Austro-German reservists in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.