

# MILITARY VOTERS' BILL READY FOR THIRD READING

Was Reported From Committee Last Night — Closure Unnecessary—Pugsley Amendment Was Defeated by 31 Majority.

The Military Voters' Bill, which has occupied the attention of the Commons for the greater part of the week, was reported from committee last evening, and stands for a third reading. At one time it was feared that the discussion of the bill would be more protracted, and that it might be necessary for the Government to invoke the closure rule to secure its adoption by the House.

As the result of a joint conference held on Thursday, however, a number of amendments were agreed to which in a measure satisfied the opposition and insured the passage of the bill. The provision in the bill as originally introduced to which most exception was taken was the one giving to soldier voters who are non-residents of Canada the right to vote in any constituency. As a result of the joint conference, the Government agreed to so amend this clause as to provide that soldiers who have lived in Canada must vote in the constituencies in which they last resided in this country.

## Not Satisfactory At All.

This compromise did not satisfy all the members of the opposition, and Hon. William Pugsley yesterday moved an amendment confining the right to vote to residents of the Dominion. The amendment was productive of a debate which led to some spirited cross-firing. The amendment was rejected on a division of 51 to 13, a Government majority of 38. The amendment agreed to by the conference was then adopted, and the bill was reported.

## About the Conscripts.

Consideration of the Military Voters' Bill was resumed in committee in the Commons, and in reply to Hon. Charles Murphy, the Minister of Justice stated that conscripted men would not be military voters until their names were actually placed upon the roll. He said also that Hindoo members of the expeditionary force from British Columbia would have a vote. Every person, male or female, being a British subject, whether a minor or an Indian, any person ordinarily resident in Canada, in the expeditionary force would be given the franchise.

Hon. Frank Oliver asked about the case of a man voting who had no right to vote.

Mr. Doherty replied that the Canadian Criminal law did not apply in France or England and they would have to rely on the oath of the individual.

## Bar All Outsiders.

A rancorous debate followed the moving of an amendment by Hon. William Pugsley, to prevent members of the Canadian forces who were not ordinarily resident in Canada, being given the right to vote. He argued that under the phraseology of the clause, a man might be given a vote who had never been in Canada at all, and it was not desirable to give such men the right to take part in the civil life of Canada. It was worse, he said, when it was realized that a non Canadian who knew nothing of Canadian affairs, would be given the right to select his constituency. It might turn the election in many constituencies.

Mr. William German, of Welland, who seconded the amendment de-

clared it was an outrage on the civil rights of Canadians and an outrage on the soldier electors of Canada who were fighting the battles in the trenches. The votes of non Canadians could be placed in constituencies where elections were won or lost by less than 100 votes. Residential manhood franchise was the only franchise in Canada except in the case of Canadian soldiers who had gone to war.

## Really Entitled to Franchise.

Mr. W. S. Middleboro resented the attitude of Mr. Pugsley and Mr. German. He said he knew of Canadians living in the United States, who when war broke out, threw over lucrative positions and joined the Canadian forces. These men were more entitled to the franchise than he himself was, and he declared that when men went overseas to take their lives in their hands, they were not thinking of little picayune party politics.

Mr. James Arthurs of Parry Sound remarked that while Mr. Pugsley was talking about preventing soldiers from voting, he was saying nothing about preventing those voting who had come over to Canada to take the place in munition and other factories of the boys who had gone to do the fighting.

## About Dr. Pugsley's Son.

Dr. Edwards expressed surprise at the attitude of Mr. Pugsley. He declared that ever since the war started that gentleman had consistently opposed helping the boys at the front. He said that when war started a son of Mr. Pugsley had taken out a Lieutenant's commission in St. John but when he saw that it was a case of going to war, he had resigned his commission and started a garage in the city of St. John instead.

Mr. Pugsley rose to a point of order. He said the statement was absolutely false and cowardly.

Dr. Edwards appealed to the chairman for a ruling as to Mr. Pugsley's use of the word "false." He asked that Mr. Pugsley be made to withdraw the expression.

The Deputy Speaker after a few minutes consultation with the clerk replied that Mr. Pugsley had not transgressed the rules of debate.

Dr. Edwards then asked for the Speaker's ruling regarding Mr. Pugsley's use of the word "cowardly."

The Deputy Speaker after again consulting with the clerk ruled that the word cowardly applied to the attack and not to the member for Frontenac.

Dr. Edwards retorted by saying that Mr. Pugsley had made statements that were absolutely false and cowardly, and proceeded to state that he was in a position to prove the statements he had made regarding Mr. Pugsley's son.

## Must Withdraw This.

Mr. Pugsley interjected again that Dr. Edwards' assertions regarding the young man were absolutely false and cowardly, and added "put that in your pipe and smoke it."

The Speaker amid considerable amusement called upon Mr. Pugsley to withdraw this expression.

Mr. Pugsley asked what expression.

The Deputy Speaker said "that about the pipe and smoking."

Dr. Edwards declared that Mr. Pugsley was now doing the smoking. Picking up a copy of Militia Gazette, he read from it that Lieut. J. A. Pugsley had been given a Lieut.'s commission in the 62nd Regiment, St. John Fusiliers, on Nov. 17, 1914. "Is that your son," he asked Mr. Pugsley.

The member for St. John refused to enlighten him.

Dr. Edwards asserted that he was Mr. Pugsley's son and that in a month or two he had taken off his uniform and run a garage instead.

## Let Them Vote In St. John.

Dr. Edwards thought that it would be only justice if some of these men at the front got a chance to vote in the City of St. John to show what they thought of the conduct of Mr. Pugsley.

Mr. Pugsley said that if there was one gentleman in the House who had showed himself on many occasions unworthy of respect the inner consciousness would tell him to whom he referred. Mr. Pugsley said he was beyond the years when he could enlist. He had made no boast of what he had done in the way of contribution to the cause but he was willing to let his record as to assistance be compared with that of any other man in the House. Those in his home constituency knew he had done his part.

Dr. Edwards said that he was above age limit and had never been connected with the militia. He had never mentioned it in public before but he would say that his only son was flying over the lines in France, and he was speaking as one interested in that boy and others like him. A ballot should be given to every man who has put on khaki to fight for the cause. He was willing to place his records as to assistance to the cause against the record of Mr. Pugsley. He would also place the record of his son against the record of the son of the member for St. John. "Let us make it a family record," he added, amidst laughter.

## The Rule of the Ages.

Sir Sam Hughes said that it was a rule of all the ages that all naturalization laws are overruled by the fact that a man that dons the uni-

form and fights for his adopted country. Sir Sam said he had attended the dinner in London when Sir Richard McBride was urging Lloyd George and Bonar Law to allow the British Columbia soldiers to vote. They said that it could not be done, that they could not give them the right. General Hughes said he asked what the mischief they had to do with their right to vote. Canada, not Great Britain, decided whether Canadian soldiers voted. A few days later the right was granted.

Hon. Frank Oliver said that he did not object so much to the soldiers' voting; in fact there was much to be said for it, but he did object to placing the direction of a large number of votes in the hands of the Government and its friends. For this reason, he supported the amendment.

Mr. H. B. Morphy wondered if the Liberals were afraid of the soldiers' vote.

"No, afraid of the Government count," replied Mr. Oliver.

## Getting After Mr. Pugsley.

Mr. Morphy continuing said that Mr. Pugsley said he wanted to help the boys at the front, and that he had voted against conscription which was the only way in which they could be assisted. He thought that Mr. Pugsley and his friends had effrontery in boasting of what they had done when day in and day out they had assisted in blocking and obstructing the Government. He said if the Government had mismanaged the war, who knew better than the soldier. He said that Mr. Pugsley was loyal but he disputed his patriotism. Loyalty he described as a symbol and patriotism was the doing of something.

Mr. Pugsley interposed to say that he had not boasted of his loyalty.

"He had good ground for not boasting of it," was the retort of Mr. Morphy amid laughter.

Mr. R. B. Bennett hoped that Mr. Pugsley would withdraw his amendment. He pointed out that the amendment dealt only with British subjects who had come from the United States and other countries to join our army. They could not vote in the United States as British subjects, and the only way they could cast their vote in regard to the conduct of the war was by this bill. These men should be allowed to cast their vote who were fighting for the preservation of the Empire and its destiny. He said they had a deep interest in Canada, that they were paid from our treasury, got separation allowance from us and their pensions would come from Canada.

There were two essential qualifications for voting, residence and citizenship. These men were already British subjects and question of residence was answered by service. Any man who would serve six months in Flanders had earned his right to vote more than by a dozen in residence. Mr. Bennett said there were in the west a large number of alien enemies and German reservists. He had a letter from a Calgary man who said he had recently captured a German officer who was formerly a well-known citizen of Calgary and was a naturalized Canadian. If he could have escaped, he would have had the right to vote in Calgary. There had been many counts of former German residents who were Canadian citizens being captured in the German ranks. Many, however, had not succeeded in getting away. These men were naturalized and had the right to vote, surely for that reason every man in khaki should vote.

Mr. W. F. German said he had no fear of the vote of the soldier as far as he was concerned, but the point involved was what right had any man or any number of men to say they had a right to vote in Welland, for instance, when they had no legal status in the county.

Mr. George Boivin, of Shefford, said he was in favor of British subjects being allowed to vote. He thought it would be better, however, to provide for men who have never resided in Canada, a county at large. Assuming that there were 35,000 such British subjects in the overseas forces, this would be the equivalent to an additional constituency. By this plan these soldiers would have their own representative in the House.

Dr. Michael Clark asked Mr. Boivin if he would confine the representation to one member.

Mr. Boivin replied that he would give them more if they were of sufficient numbers to warrant it.

## Libs. Vote With Government.

The committee then divided on the amendment, which was defeated by a vote of 51 to 13, a Government majority of 38. Liberal members who voted with the Government were Messrs. Turriff, McLean (Halifax), Clark (Red Deer), Douglass, Pardee, Buchanan, Neeley, McCraney, Carvell, and Loggie. The thirteen Liberals who voted for the amendment were Messrs. Copp, Proulx, Lemieux, Knowles, Kyte, McKenzie, Pugsley, German, Oliver, Murphy, Turgeon, Michaud, and Marcille (Bagot).

Mr. German then moved an amendment confining the giving of votes to minors to those not below the age of 18 and providing that it should not apply to minors enrolled in forces other than the C.E.F. subsequent to the passage of the act. This, he said, would prevent the enrollment of battalions of naval cadets on eve of an election for political purposes.

Hon. C. J. Doherty in declining to accept the amendment said there would be no possibility of men holding responsible positions in the navy resorting to this sort of thing.

## SENDS REPORT TO KAISER.

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 25.—A Berlin official despatch received here says Chancellor Michaelis visited headquarters and presented Emperor William with a report. Some Berlin newspapers say the visit is connected with Alsace-Lorraine.

## High Heels Put Corns on Toes

Who cares? Corns or calluses lift off without any pain.

Because style decrees that women crowd and buckle up their tender toes in high heeled footwear, they suffer from corns, then they cut and trim at these painful pests which merely makes the corn grow hard. This suicidal habit may cause lockjaw and women are warned to stop it.

A few drops of freezone applied directly upon a sore corn or tender callus gives quick relief and soon the entire corn or callus, root and all, lifts off without pain. Ask the drug store man for a tiny bottle of freezone, which costs but a few cents, but is sufficient to remove every hard or soft corn or callus from one's feet. Freezone dries in a moment and simply shrivels up the corn or callus without even irritating the surrounding skin.

Women! Keep a bottle of freezone handy on the dresser and never let a corn ache twice.

