

FEDERAL FRANCHISE BILL COMING TO-DAY

Extension to Soldiers and Their Female Relatives— Denial to Aliens

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, Sept. 5.—The Minister of Justice and the Solicitor-General are still working on the details of the war time elections act, notice of which appeared for the first time on the order paper of the House of Commons yesterday. With the bill still undergoing revision statements as to its provisions are necessarily speculative in their nature. As the title of the bill would indicate, however, it is a war time measure and any restriction of the franchise which it will cover will be for the war period only. It is generally accepted that the bill will debar naturalized citizens of alien enemy birth from voting at the approaching elections, but that in the various Provinces the right to vote will be extended to women who are relatives of members of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Another provision may eliminate from the vote "conscientious objectors" to military service.

To what degree the bill will be regarded as controversial by the Opposition cannot be stated until its provisions are explained in the Commons by the Prime Minister, in whose name it stands on the order paper. Should the Opposition take strong exception to the explanation the closure will in all likelihood be invoked to secure its adoption in the Commons. That would mean a considerable prolongation of the session, which, apart from the war time elections act, would terminate next week.

Heretofort in Federal elections Provincial lists have been used. The new act will provide for Dominion lists prepared under Dominion auspices. The act in whatever form it is finally passed will apply only to elections during war time. It is not designed to be a permanent affair, in regard to either the enlargement or restriction of the franchise.