

# AMENDMENT IS APPROVED AT CAUCUS

Norris Supporters Favor Giving Vote to All Resident Returned Soldiers

## BARRING OF ENEMY ALIENS MENTIONED

Every returned soldier domiciled in Manitoba at the time of the provincial general election, which will be held next July, may vote as a duly qualified elector in the constituency in which he happens at the time to be residing.

Amendments to the Elections act, making such provision, practically were decided upon at a caucus of Norris party supporters Wednesday, it was intimated today.

### Other Reforms Mentioned

Other electoral matters mentioned but not discussed included:

Disfranchisement of proved alien enemies

Qualifications of immigrant settlers

Date and period of registration.

"I believe that any man who fought for this country in the war, whether he was with the Canadians, or any other Allied army, is entitled to a vote in the country which he undoubtedly helped to save from the Hun," declared a rural member, in discussing the soldier vote problem. His sentiments were warmly echoed by a score of government supporters approached on the subject.

It was stated that on none of the questions discussed at the caucus meeting was any definite decision reached, but on this point there appeared such unanimity of opinion, members said, that no doubt existed

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but the provision would be made law.

"It is not intended," explained a member, "that every soldier who happens to be in Manitoba on election day shall vote. Such a provision I am sure would lend itself to corruption, as some politicians in this province would not be above importing numbers of returned men from other provinces for the purpose of bolstering their vote by unfair means.

### For Bona Fide Residents

"The provision," he continued, "will make it possible for every bona fide returned soldier resident of the province to vote, irrespective of the general regulations requiring one year residence in the province and three months' residence in the constituency."

The question of disfranchising proved alien enemies apparently does not meet with such unanimity of opinion as the soldier problem, according to capitol gossip. Differences of opinion are said to have arisen as to what regulations should be included in the new act to cover this class of elector. It is asserted that on the lists, which have not been revised since 1917, appear the names of many aliens whose disloyalty has been proved; some, indeed, who spent part of the war period in internment camps and penitentiaries for anti-Ally sentiments they expressed or acts committed.

The registration question, members say, will be a bigger problem

this year than ever before, largely on account of the woman vote. Women have never yet voted in a Manitoba general election, although the statute entitling them to the franchise was passed at the first session of the Norris regime legislature. This year they will vote.

Because of the fact that entirely new lists will have to be made, it is expected that registration will be allowed to continue for two or three weeks in rural districts, while in the city a considerably longer period will be provided in order that the work shall be completed with the least dissatisfaction. It is hinted that registration will start in rural sections about March 15, and that it is for this reason that the government intends proroguing the House about March 6.