

NO VOTES FOR DEFAULTERS

New Bill Introduced in Legis-
lature Disqualifies M.S.A.
Offenders

HAS WIDE APPLICATION

Defaulters under the Military Service Act are not to be allowed to enjoy the rights of full citizenship in Ontario. A bill to disqualify such persons was one of the late Government measures brought down in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. I. B. Lucas. In addition to military defaulters the bill strikes at all persons convicted under the Criminal Code or orders in Council passed under the War Measures Act for offenses of a treasonable or seditious nature. They, too, will be disqualified from voting.

In introducing the bill, which is known as the "Disqualification Act of 1919," Hon. Mr. Lucas asked that it be passed without any attempt being made to give to it a political flavor. He pointed out that on numerous occasions the House had given full support to the allied cause. It was against men who had deserted that same cause that the bill he was introducing had been drafted. Men who had refused to listen to their country's call should not be allowed the privilege of participating in decisions on the problems following the war. The bill provided that men whom it was intended to disqualify would not be allowed to vote or hold office for a period of ten years.

In a jocular vein, Mr. Proudfoot asked if the bill would apply to profiteers. Mr. Lucas did not like the observation of the Opposition Leader, and objected to it, stating the matter was too serious to be treated in such a manner. The Attorney-General told Mr. Allan Studholme that any questions he wanted answering could be asked on second reading.

Export of Pulpwood.

The Prime Minister brought in a bill to permit the export of certain pulpwood from Crown Lands. He explained that the act was to enable the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines to allow exportation of poplar pulpwood. There was an act, he said, which prohibits the export of pulpwood from Crown Lands except in a manufactured state. However, it had been found that at present there was no market in Ontario for poplar, all the mills using spruce and the other timber or wood. The result was that in cutting the spruce or other timber used in the mills the poplar is practically wasted, because it cannot be sold to Canadian mills, as it is scattered through the spruce.

There was practically no discussion on the bill. Mr. Z. Mageau of Sturgeon Falls, said the bill was all right, as there had been a good deal of waste of poplar. Sir William Hearst agreed with Mr. Mageau that the Province would benefit by the receipt of the usual dues on the poplar taken out of the Province.

County Aid and Soldiers.

Sir William Hearst introduced a bill authorizing corporations of counties to enter into certain agreements for the settlement of returned soldiers and sailors. He explained that the county of Bruce Preparedness League had had under consideration for some time a settlement scheme for their returned soldiers. The Government was anxious to meet the wishes of the organizations in connection with the scheme. The County Council had made a grant for the purpose. The men of Bruce county were particu-

larly fitted for the settlement work in Northern Ontario. Bruce county was the pioneer in the work, but other counties had since taken it up. However, the league had no corporate identity and the bill was intended to give the Council power to appoint a committee that would have legal power to enter into an agreement.

Mr. Proudfoot said he was satisfied Bruce county should be commended for its action. He trusted that the good work which it had begun would become more general. He suggested that the wording of the bill be changed so as to permit the committee to use more than \$20,000 in the work, as was the intention under the bill. There was no objection raised to this and the change was made.

Mr. Wm. McDonald, North Bruce, and Mr. W. D. Cargill, South Bruce, both spoke in favor of the scheme, and told of the many virtues of the people of that county. They explained that the Government had agreed to allow Bruce soldiers to settle in Shackleton township.

The bill was advanced through the various stages and given its third reading.

During the afternoon Hon. Mr. Lucas withdrew the "blue sky" legislation which had been before the House all session; also the bill to amend the Surveys' Act.

Premier Hearst Will Consider Preferential Voting Move in Bill Form

Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, K.C., the Opposition Leader in the Legislature, is apparently making progress in his fight to have the system of preferential voting adopted in Ontario. The Liberal Leader has had a resolution on the order paper expressing the opinion that this system should be adopted for two or three years past. In discussing the resolution in the House last night he frankly admitted that he had brought it forward for educational purposes. The Prime Minister suggested that the proposal should be incorporated in a bill at the next session, when it would receive the serious consideration of the Government. Mr. Proudfoot promised to do this, and added that he would bring it in on the first day of next session.

Because of the lateness of the session the Liberal Leader discussed the resolution only briefly. He admitted he did not expect the Government to adopt the proposal at this session because the drafting of a bill would require careful thought. Had preferential voting been law at the last Provincial election the division of parties in the House would have been: Conservatives, 60; Liberals, 46; Independents, 5. He told of two other countries in which it was in force.

Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) supported the principle involved in the resolution of his Leader. He believed that if the Opposition waited another year they might find the Government had adopted another policy advocated by the Liberals, as had been done in the past.

Sir Wm. Hearst said the subject was one deserving of thought and study. His Government was alert to study matters which might improve the constitution. Nor was the Government averse to occasionally adopting suggestions made by the Opposition.

"We show the Government that we are progressive on this side of the House," declared Mr. Proudfoot, in rising to withdraw the resolution; "that the Opposition is here for some purpose. It is our duty, just as much as it is for the Government members, to bring forward legislation which we believe to be in the interests of the people."