

a fair law, and yet the honourable the leader of the Government took credit to the Government for having an immense majority of the votes in the country. They have a majority of such votes as were polled; but the 745,000 votes cast for the Liberal party were the honest votes of honest men, votes cast in spite of hills which had to be climbed, in the shape of stubbornness on the part of the returning officers and others. As stated by the honourable member for De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), if the women's vote were taken from the total, we on this side of the House would be in the majority. What was the result of the election anyhow? On the night of the election Sir Wilfrid Laurier had ninety-two members behind him, with a prospect of four more, especially in Halifax, where he would have had two seats; but owing to the unfortunate occurrence there, they went Union. On the day after the election Sir Robert Borden said: "It is true that my majority is only forty-five, but wait a few weeks and it will be raised to sixty." How did he know? He counted on the soldiers' vote. He said so. He knew how the soldiers would vote before they voted, and his prediction has come true. What is the result to-day? Sir Wilfrid Laurier, instead of having ninety-four members behind him, has only eighty-two; and the Union Government did everything in its power to knock out the few men who would have been good critics, such as the Hon. Frank Oliver, the men from Prince Edward Island, and three or four from Nova Scotia. That is not Union Government. We have not got Union Government in this Senate. The Government has been replacing old Liberal senators with good, young, staunch Conservatives. They have not taken the leader of the Opposition into their counsels. There is absolutely no union. The Government uses this House for its party ends, and treats it in just the same way as in the old days, the same as Sir Wilfrid and Sir John Macdonald and other prime ministers in the past used to do. There is no union. The leader of the Government will understand what I mean. If he had one or two members from this side of the House in his counsels it would make things much easier; but no. And we are not going to take it now any more than Sir Wilfrid Laurier accepted the offer from Sir Robert Borden at the heel of the hunt, when the hare was killed. The offer was made. Why, yes; but it was made after the plate was empty—the meat was taken, and even the bones were gone. That was not an offer

of union. All this goes to show that the Government need not arrogate to itself supreme power—need not and should not. It ought to be ashamed.

As far as the measures proposed in the Speech from the Throne are concerned, I would point out to one of the honourable ministers opposite that this new Board of Registration will save a lot of money and trouble if it takes the municipal voters' lists of the Dominion of Canada as the foundation of the registration. I have had considerable experience in municipal affairs and know what they are, especially in small municipalities. Take the case of the little villages and municipalities with anywhere from one hundred to four or five hundred or one thousand to two thousand voters: every name that is worth anything is on that list, which gives the number in the family and the members of the family. I suppose what the assessor does in one municipality he does in another. Take, for instance, the county of Prescott. The voters' list there is practically a complete registration of what you want, and every other county is practically the same. I understand that in large places there is quite a large floating population that is not put on the municipal list; but every man who is an occupant or a proprietor has to be on that list. I hope the honourable minister will take this advice in good part. It will ease his work, it will simplify it, and it will prevent the useless expenditure of money which is so much needed to-day for war purposes. If he follows this advice, he could write to the clerk of each municipality asking for a copy of the voters' list, and inside of two weeks he would have practically what the Government needs. What is the good of registration with regard to the floating population? They are here to-day and away to-morrow. What you want is a registration of the men who cultivate the soil and work in the factories from one end of the year to the other. But in the cities—for instance, take Montreal—men working in St. Henri to-day are lost next week down in the east end, and so on. The floating population will not cut much of a figure. In these municipal lists which are already made, certified and sworn to, you have the bone and sinew of the land. What more do you want, unless you want the floating population? Well, then, restrict your efforts. To do this work you do not need a whole lot of machinery, clerks, officers and stenographers, to gather in the information which is already in the hands of the clerk