

built up on responsible government, on freedom of votes.

We in this Senate are compelled to deal with this matter. I am prepared to deal with it; I am prepared to deal with it from now until the last breath of this Parliament is drawn, on Saturday night two weeks hence. I think this legislation, which has been forced through by closure, deserves not only that the brain and intellect of the members of this party should be put at the service of the country, but that their health, their physical welfare, should be at the service of their country to prevent this thing from going through. If the Government can put on closure and muzzle us, as the Government has muzzled the Opposition in the House of Commons—it is a pity to have to say it—it is a shame to the country. The Government has muzzled its supporters on the other side, with the honourable leader in this House and the honourable gentleman from Hamilton. Now, if the Government has that power, why should we not use another kind of closure, which would be the closure of free men against pirates? Why should we not have the right to do so? I tell you, honourable gentlemen, what was said to me the night before last by a returned soldier who had been three years in the trenches. "Oh," he said, "senator, if the people of the country only knew what is going on, there would be in Canada scenes similar to those in Russia." That is from a soldier of the King who comes from Winnipeg; and he is in this House—at least, in this building. That is the kind of thing we have to deal with. We are opposed by closure; we are opposed by the complete silence on the other side of the House. They have no defence for their attitude, no explanation for their conduct.

The honourable senator for Hamilton (Hon. Mr. Lynch-Staunton) has also a good, legal mind—fair too. The honourable senator from Hamilton and the honourable senator from Middleton make a good pair on the other side. The honourable gentleman from Hamilton stated—and it is the only fair explanation that has been offered in regard to this measure—that the enumerator is a judicial officer and cannot put aside a name that is already on the list or refuse to add a name, without sworn evidence, and then his decision is subject to an appeal to a higher court; and the honourable gentleman asked, "What objection can honourable gentlemen have to the amendment?"

As soon as he uttered those words I said: "I would vote for that, but it is not in the Bill."

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The suggested amendment.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I am prepared now to accept the proposition made by the honourable senator from Hamilton, and if the enumerators are to be made judicial officers for the occasion, taking the oath of allegiance to the King and justice to the subjects, and if they cannot take names off or add names to the list without evidence, and their decisions are to be subject to an appeal to a higher court, I will swallow the Bill.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: That is all there is to it.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: What fairer proposal do you want? But the honourable gentleman from Hamilton said that was in the Bill. It is not in the Bill. Now, if the Government will put that into the Bill, I will accept their amendment. That is fair enough. What more do you want? I am not here to bolster up the Liberal party when it does wrong, or to buttress Liberal traditions and ideas. No more should you be there to maintain a Government that is doing wrong when you know in your heart and soul that it does wrong very often. I belong to the Liberal party in Canada, and am proud of its traditions and accomplishments since the days of Papineau, Lafontaine and Baldwin, and especially since the days of the Laurier regime; but when our party makes a mistake, either in administration or in legislation, I am not hindered or hampered in telling them that such a law, or such a clause in that law, is not right. I would not give up my freedom of speech or my convictions for the sake of party affiliations. I am too good a Canadian and too proud of my country to take part in public affairs along such lines.

I stand here and offer to the Government that if the proposition made by the honourable senator from Hamilton is put into the Bill I will accept it, and I think many of my friends on this side will do the same. I think it is a fair proposition. All I want in this Bill is fairness; I want no partiality in it at all, either to one side or to the other. I like a fight or an election on fair grounds, and you can only have that with a fair voters' list. The voters' lists under this Bill, not only in Nova Scotia but all through the Dominion, are going to be of