

as competent to vote in time of war as they are to vote in time of peace. Is the wife of the man who has contributed largely to patriotic and other funds connected with the war, to be denied the vote? Is the washerwoman who has sacrificed out of her mere pittance fifty cents a week for the Patriotic Fund not entitled to cast her ballot simply because she has no relatives to go to the front? Hon. gentlemen seem to have forgotten those words of commendation, "She hath done what she could." Sir, these women have done what they could. It is their misfortune that they are not able to send sons or brothers to the front. But their spirit has shown itself beyond doubt; if they had had relatives, those relatives would have gone to the front. It is not to the credit of this Government that, for some reason which they have not mentioned, they have deprived the women of these various provinces of the franchise that they would enjoy were it not for this Bill.

Mr. DONALD SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I do not rise to speak on the third reading of this Bill through any desire to hear the sound of my voice in this Chamber. I should not participate in this debate if I did not feel that the occasion was a most serious one. During a session in time of war, the discussions of questions that have come before this House have been greatly prolonged from day to day. If I expressed my opinion of some of the speeches that have been made, I am afraid, Sir, that you would call me to order.

The third reading of the War-Time Elections Act comes in conjunction with the two measures that have recently been put through the House, the Military Service Act, and the measure giving the soldiers the right to vote. The War-Time Elections Act is surely a necessary one, considering the conditions that confront the people to-day.

Since this war began there has been a strong feeling throughout Canada that we should have no election in this country as long as the war lasted, and no one voiced those sentiments more strongly than hon. gentlemen opposite and the Liberal press of the country. As the war went on, I believe that that feeling became even stronger. It is not so very long ago that the right hon. leader of the Opposition, protesting in the city of Toronto against the idea of holding an election during the war, said that he did not purpose opening the portals of office with a bloody key. A year ago a

[Mr. Graham.]

measure for the extension of the life of Parliament was passed unanimously by this House; we have practically reached the end of that extension. I say that if there was one reason then why there should be an extension of the life of Parliament, there are a hundred reasons for extending it to-day. Hon. gentlemen may say that there was no Military Service Bill before the House last year. Let me tell them that there was a Military Service Bill on the statute book at that time, and it was far more rigid than the one recently passed by this House. The measure recently passed was most reasonable compared with the Act on the statute book at that time.

I have listened to the right hon. leader of the Opposition and some of his colleagues to-night, and I say that the sentiments they have advanced are not in accordance with the sentiment of the people of this country, as I understand it. The right hon. leader of the Opposition stated a few minutes ago that this measure was a breach of faith with a portion of our population, and he went on to say, "My faith is in the German people," referring, of course, to the Germans who had come to this country. His statement to-night reminded me of a statement he made in the old Parliament Building not so very long ago, when the proposal of the Government for the building of three dreadnoughts was under consideration. He said:

There is one fact in the situation which, I think, shows that there is no intention on the part of Germany to attack England, and that fact is the German Emperor.

The German Emperor is undoubtedly one of the great men of the present age. By intellect, by character, by moral fibre, he has shown himself wonderfully endowed. In the first years of his reign some of his utterances sent a shiver through those who had the peace of the world at heart. Many believed that he was, perhaps, hankering for the glamour of military glory. But as he advanced in years, and as crisis after crisis came, his potent influence was always directed towards peace. And the day may come when, like his illustrious Uncle, our late King, he may be called the peace-maker.

I have always said that the man who has no regard for the country from which his ancestors came is not the best kind of a citizen. I believe that many of the people who have come out from Germany and settled in this country are prejudiced against our cause; their sympathies are naturally with the country from which they came. I say that no hardship or injustice is being done to these people by passing this Act at the present time. When the leader of the Opposition and the hon. mem-