

spite of the efforts of my hon. friend, the member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau), the Government would not listen to his suggestions, they bring us back to the Elections Act previous to 1896, to the old institution of revisors which the Laurier Government had abolished. However, the Franchise Act has better operated in the country since 1896 than under the old Chapleau Act.

Instead of leaving the preparation of this list, created by this nefarious Bill, in the hands of competent persons, such as the municipal secretary-treasurers—I refer to the province of Quebec—an enumerator shall be needed, not only in every voting district, but in every polling division, as stated in section 42 (1) of the Bill as amended.

This section 42 (1) reads as follows:

Subject to the provisions of section 65A of this Act, the Governor in Council may appoint enumerators in each province to make lists of the electors in each electoral district, and the returning officer of each electoral district shall assign one of such enumerators to each polling division therein: by inserting between the words "such" and "appointments" in the first line of subsection (2) of said section the words "or sufficient", and by striking out of the ninth line of said subsection (2) of said section the words "one or more polling divisions" and inserting instead the words "polling division;" by striking out from the fourth line of subsection (1) of section 46 the words "or each of the polling divisions" and by adding as subsections (2) and (3) to said section the following.

It is evident that the returning officer, who will be a creature of the Government, will appoint an enumerator of his own choice, who may himself operate the machinery to suit his taste, in the hands of his creatures—and they call that "fair play." Thus, in the rural counties, if there is one with four polling divisions, there will be four enumerators. The provincial Act works well; the federal Act has worked well since 1896, and the preparing of the lists was in the hands of the secretary-treasurers. In the province of Quebec, in September, the secretary-treasurers have completed the electoral list for every polling division. From September 15 to 30, those who find they have been wronged may complain, have the required corrections made and the municipal council, after September 30, if there are any complaints, must revise the electoral list, from October 1 to October 15. This costs nothing to the country and it is done by competent parties. You know those facts, Mr. Speaker.

Upon the whole, I say that this iniquitous and unjust Bill will be a cause for corrup-

tion in the making out of the lists and in the application of this Act.

Mr. Speaker, I bow down, my time is up, I am done.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

### After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. E. PROULX (Prescott): Mr. Speaker, when this war was declared, about three years ago, all classes in this country responded to the call of the Government to enlist and go across the ocean to help Great Britain and her Allies. There was no distinction of race or creed in the call or in the response. No opposition was offered by any party in this country to the participation of Canada in the war. When the first war session was called in August, 1914, the Liberal party unanimously supported the policy of the Government and voted the money asked for by the Government to equip, organize and send the troops across the seas. Now the Government propose to disfranchise some of the people who responded to that call. If they did not answer the call by enlisting, they answered it by contributing generously to the Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross Fund, and other patriotic works. Shortly after the outbreak of the war I remember hearing the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) express his belief that people of Austrian and German extraction would be loyal to the British flag and to the country of their adoption. Nothing has happened since to change that opinion and belief of the Prime Minister. There have been no acts committed by those subjects whom this Bill seeks to disfranchise to lead Parliament to believe that they do not deserve the rights of British citizens. I had always believed that citizenship carried with it the right and privilege of the suffrage. The first case which determined that point, as I remember, was the case of Ashby vs. White. In that case an elector was refused the right to cast his vote, by a returning officer, and he sued the returning officer for the restitution of his right. Under the common law in England it was decided that there was no infringement of rights without a remedy, and the court rendered judgment against the deputy returning officer, and declared that the right of the elector had been infringed, because British citizenship carries with it the right of determining who shall govern the country, and how its affairs