

to make this country a cheap place to live in. When we have done that, I think we shall have largely found the means of retaining within this country the people who come here.

Perhaps the most important item in the bill of fare presented in the speech from the Throne is a new Dominion franchise. A new franchise measure is to be brought before the House. In my judgment there are two main principles that should be embodied in the Franchise Bill when the Government brings it down. First, it must be a fair and just franchise.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. CRERAR: I am delighted I can make at least one remark that provokes applause from both sides of the House. Secondly, it must provide fair and just electoral machinery.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. CRERAR: From the applause I anticipate that when this measure comes before the House there will be very little difficulty in getting it through. Those are two cardinal principles that should be embodied in our Franchise Act, and in that connection I wish to take issue with my hon. friend from Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) in respect to the War-time Elections Act. I have never been one who supported the War-time Elections Act. I believe it was unsound in principle. I believe it has brought bad consequences that will remain in this country for many years to come. I do not base my criticism of the Act so much on the grounds on which it has been frequently criticised in the past, but rather upon the effect it has had upon the people we have brought to this country, and whom we hoped to elevate into good Canadian citizens. What has been its effect? We invited these people to come here, and they came. I am free to confess that in many cases we gave them the franchise too easily, but I hold that once a man has been admitted into the brotherhood of Canadian citizenship we should be very careful indeed in taking away from him any of the privileges that go with that citizenship. Its effect on our people has been two-fold. Thousands of these men who were disfranchised took no exception to it. They said: You take the franchise from us, but you relieve us from military service; that is a fair trade. Are those the ideals of citizenship we should instil into our people? Sir, I think not. Every man of Canadian citizenship should have been

obliged to shoulder the obligations of Canadian citizenship under the Military Service Act. There is no other fair way of working this thing out. On the other hand, there was another class of our foreign-born people who were disfranchised. They had lived here for years and were good Canadian citizens, and they felt that a slight and an indignity and an injustice had been done to them, and they now harbour in their hearts a feeling of bitterness against their adopted country. That is not the way to create good Canadian citizens of the type we wish to have. I repeat, we have been too lax in the past in making easy the way to Canadian citizenship. I would be very careful whom I admit to that citizenship; but once a man is admitted to it he should be protected in all the privileges and enjoyments that go with it, and should be made to shoulder equally with other Canadian citizens the responsibilities and obligations that go with it.

Mr. PETER MCGIBBON (Muskoka): May I ask a question?

Mr. CRERAR: My hon. friend is prolific in questions, but I have no obligation.

Mr. PETER MCGIBBON (Muskoka): Would the hon. member give to Germans who had relatives fighting against us, and who were pro-German, the right to vote in this country during the war?

Mr. CRERAR: I would have done this: If he was a Canadian citizen I would have left him his privileges of citizenship, and I would have made him fight. I would have required him to do his duty to his adopted country the same as others had to do. I hope that the defects that exist in the War-time Elections Act will not be introduced in the new Franchise Act. I believe that it is possible for us to make the vast majority of our foreign-born people good citizens. I had the opportunity only a short time ago of coming in contact with some of these people. The first Ruthenians brought to this country were settled within forty miles of the place where I was brought up as a boy and lived to manhood. I saw these people go into what was practically a wilderness, a place where no English-speaking person would ever think of endeavouring to make a home—and what was the result? They got their 160 acres of land, and to-day we find there smiling fields, fine barns, splendid houses, and, let me add, their children going to school and learning the English language. I recently held a number of meetings in my constitu-