

essential, vital integrity of the nation. Those in responsible positions, entrusted by the people with that responsibility, are running away from their tasks and posts when they say: "The people's representatives have decided. How can we do anything else?" Manhood suffrage carries with it responsibilities for those who are in office.

Now, I am asked what is my attitude towards these amendments. That question involves serious consideration on the part of one in my position. Here we are, right at the end of the session. There is a mere corporal's guard across the floor, and a slightly larger group here. We on this side were able to muster only fourteen votes on the motion this afternoon; we carried it against eleven. For myself, I do not feel like putting the views of fourteen men against those of the entire House of Commons and eleven members of this House. I do not think I should be justified in doing so, even if honourable members around me felt they would like to resist the present demand of the House of Commons. Consequently, while I will not second the motion, as requested by the leader of the Government, neither will I vote against it. But that is the reason, and that alone.

This is an election measure. Newspapers and others are waiting for a voice to say whether or not there will be an election this year. I think I take no risk in becoming the announcer. There will be an election this year. The present measure is a sell-out of this country's integrity for a mess of ballots.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: It is pretty equally shared.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have often reproached new-comers to this Chamber, who have had long experience in the other House, with failure to discard some of the passions which pertain to that place. I am afraid that my right honourable friend opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen), who formerly led that other House and for many years took a very prominent part there, has not shaken off the habit of looking for a political or electoral aspect in legislation that is sent over to us for consideration. I never was a member of the other Chamber, and so I confess that when I came here, forty years ago, I had not to rid myself of its spirit. I believe that when this Bill is examined carefully its merits will be found away above electoral considerations and will appeal to the best judgment of the country.

I move that the Senate do not insist upon its first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth, ninth, fifteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth amendments,

to which the House of Commons have disagreed.

The motion was agreed to.

ABSENCE OF SENATORS NEAR END OF SESSION

On the motion to adjourn during pleasure:

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to make a suggestion to the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) and all other honourable members. This year, as usual, important measures have come to us in the last and hurried days of the session. I do not feel like joining in the universal chorus against that practice, because I know that regardless of how well a Government directs its programme it is inevitable that one or more important bills should remain for consideration at our final sittings. But I do not think it is very creditable to this House that but a smattering of honourable members are present when serious work remains to be done. I have done everything I could, within reason and with courtesy, to request honourable members on our side to stay until the end, but with only meagre success. I fancy the honourable leader of the House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) has done much the same with respect to honourable members on his side. I suggest that in order to cure this situation we should restore the rule which affects very importantly the indemnity of senators if they are not present during the last two or three weeks of a session.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: The last fifteen days.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If Providence allows me to return to this Chamber next year I shall join with my right honourable friend in seeing what we can do to maintain the attendance of a fair percentage of our members during the last two weeks of the session, when sometimes very important measures are before us.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: Why not make the motion for restoration of the rule now? You may not be able to get it passed by a full House.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Notice would have to be given.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.