

posed to all recognized principles of democracy and political freedom. Its enactment under the circumstances only had the effect of accentuating the division unrest and discord already existing throughout the Dominion. Nor was this all.

The War Times Election Act, the disenfranchisement of thousands of Canadian electors, whose only crime is that they happen to be of alien birth, the granting of the franchise to women relatives of soldiers, while other Canadian women equally entitled to it will have no vote, the provisions for the soldiers' vote, especially these permitting the vote of men who have never lived in the country, swamping and overriding the votes of those, who have a real stake in the Dominion, are all enactments of a most arbitrary and reprehensible character, fraught with menace to the liberties of Canadians. As Sir Wilfrid Laurier has justly observed "such legislation is repugnant to every sense of justice and right. It has for its object and for effect to discourage and to stifle the free expression of the will of the people and to make parliamentary government a mere name without the reality."

The plea that the times are exceptional, that such measures are justified during a period of war is a very specious but a very dangerous one.