

is why I say that if the heads of the Administration were all as devoted and as honest in their dealings with the public and the administration of public affairs as the honourable leader of this House, we should not have that shame to experience and that crime to expiate for the good name of Canada. These are hard words. We should not have, in regard to the application of the Military Franchise Acts, to bemoan the fact that ladies of the land were more expert than political thugs and ward-healers in telegraphing votes. I have it from an ex-member of Parliament, a Conservative, one of the leading financiers of the Dominion, one of the great supporters of the Conservative party, who stated it a few days after the elections in a bravado way, that he knew for a fact that women in Westmount had voted as often as twenty-one times for Albert Sevigny. Twenty-one times for one lady!

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: She was of age.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: She had time to come of age. In the constituency of St. Lawrence soldiers had voted, many of them, seven or eight times. That is the constituency where Mr. Ballantyne was elected. I know of polls right here in Ottawa where ladies were guilty of personation. There was, for instance, a certain lady—say Mrs. Brown. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's representative, a young man without experience, and evidently without courage, protested against this lady voting, saying that she was not the Mrs. Brown she represented herself to be—that he knew her. The returning officer said: "You mind your own business or you will be ejected; this woman will vote." And she voted. Two or three minutes afterwards in came the right Mrs. Brown, and the scrutineer representing Sir Wilfrid said to the returning officer: "Didn't I tell you that the lady who came in before was not the proper person to vote?" I myself, when I entered the poll here in Ottawa to cast my vote, was confronted with a loaded revolver placed on a table, at which was seated a policeman beside the deputy returning officer. That was my experience. Such things as these make one ashamed to call himself a Canadian.

The honourable gentleman from Manitou (Hon. Mr. Sharpe) interrupted the honourable senator from DeLorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), when he stated that 800 men had sworn falsely in casting their ballots. The honourable gentleman from Manitou said: "But the returning officer threw those ballots out." There is no doubt about it,

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but he threw them out only when he found that the Liberal candidate had a majority of 3,000 or 4,000, and that the ballots were no good; but if the 800 ballots had been good to override the verdict of the people in that county they would have been counted. When it was ascertained that the 800 votes could not balance the 4,000 majority, they were thrown out. That was done by your head returning officer. So it was down the whole line. I had hoped that the members from the West would tell us a little of their experiences in regard to the administration of the Franchise Acts. After all, honourable gentlemen, the ballot is the foundation of democracy, and if the foundation is destroyed the whole structure tumbles down. I charge the present Union Government with having tampered with the foundation of democracy in spoiling the ballots in many cases, in giving votes to persons who had no right to vote, in preventing persons from voting who had a right to vote, and I hold that the Union Government was not well advised, as I stated in my opposition to the measure last session, in giving votes to soldiers' dependents. I contended that they would be influenced improperly. I know from actual experience that ladies here in Ottawa on the Liberal side canvassed military dependents, and the answers they got would astound, would stagger, the community. Instead of giving votes to his own wife and to the wife of the leader of the Opposition and to all the ladies of the land who understood the economic and financial conditions in this country and the features of its public policy, Sir Robert Borden refused them the vote and gave it to soldiers who had never set foot in Canada and to soldiers' dependents who knew nothing whatever about conditions in this country.

The War-time Elections Act not only gave opportunities to ladies to telegraph votes and duplicate them beyond measure; I regret very much to have to say that it also gave an opportunity to the demi-mondaines to fill the polls of our metropolitan cities. They were taken to the polls and voted en masse. They were paid for their votes. And that is woman suffrage. They were not the majority, but there were too many of them. I foresaw all this last session. When I protested, it was not to prevent bona fide wives having a vote; but giving it to the grandmother, the sister, the daughter, and all the relations, with no control over it, was absurd. As one honourable gentleman has said, these are things which should be remedied this session. It is not