

votes for women could be argued out after the war had been won, because "if we did not win we would be a crushed people and nothing would matter," he said.

Mrs. Rose Henderson then took the matter of public meetings up, and it was decided that a meeting be held at the corner of Ethel and Church streets, in Verdun, on Saturday night. Another meeting will be held on Phillips' Square on Monday evening. Speakers will be secured to address the audiences, and both sides of the franchise question will be discussed.

You can see that there is going to be quite a lot of discussion in Montreal about that. The article continues:

After the question of meetings had been decided upon, discussion drifted towards the food question and the food controller. Mrs. Henderson gave a vivid picture of conditions among the poorer classes in Montreal, where people had neither bread nor butter. "We have a food controller who is a huge joke," said the speaker. "The only thing he is controlling is the appetites of the people. He advocates eating fish on two days of the week, and as a result fish dealers raise their prices on those days." The food controller, in Mrs. Henderson's opinion, has failed lamentably, and until a really capable man was given charge of the question she did not think that things would take any turn for the better.

It is useless for me to appeal to hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House with regard to this Bill, because they have made up their minds that it shall go through. When the Bill was in committee we offered many suggestions by way of amendment, but only those that had been prepared in advance by the Secretary of State could pass. We suggested that in the city of Montreal the polls be kept open until seven or eight o'clock in the evening, but the Government would not accept that suggestion. Everything was cooked in advance; everything was ready, and as a final touch the gag was applied.

Hon. T. W. CROTHERS (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the right to vote is not a natural right, nor has it ever been so regarded by any legislature or any state. It is conferred by legislation and never anywhere upon all the people. Speaking generally, persons under twenty-one years of age have not been given it, nor have judges. Aliens, Indians, criminals or those being maintained by public charity. At our last election in 1911 only one-quarter of the people in Canada were entitled to vote, and that right had been given to them by legislation. Consideration must always be had to the conditions existing in the country. The question of the franchise is a matter not of theory, but of conditions. No statesman establishing a government in Central Africa would think of enfranchising the

natives. It is generally conceded, I think, that our cousins across the line were unwise in granting the franchise to the coloured man before he was fairly qualified to exercise it. Conditions affecting the interests of the State determine to whom the right to vote shall be given. To-day very exceptional and abnormal conditions prevail. What are they? The safety and independence of Canada, the honour and integrity of the Empire, and the liberties of humanity, are in danger. If the Central Powers finally win the war everything for which life is worth living will be lost by us. The question to be determined in this election is as to whether we shall continue in this war or whether the war shall cease so far as we are concerned.

For three years a majority of the people of this country of both political parties have struggled valiantly for the preservation of these priceless possessions. Loyal Liberals have shown no less anxiety than Conservatives to win this war, and to that end have contributed of men, means and service no less generously than Conservatives. All classes alike mourn the loss of loved ones fallen. Parents, wives and children in all ranks of life in common sorrow weep for those who never shall return but they all find solace in the thought that their men died bravely in a rightful cause; others suffer with anxiety for those still surrounded by death and danger.

The war is the thought uppermost in the minds of people everywhere, and one has to come to Parliament to find anyone worrying about anything else. But here we find men obsessed with the illfounded anticipation of the enjoyment of the pride of office. Some months ago I expressed the opinion that there were men more anxious to win the treasury benches than to win the war, and the opinion I then expressed has since developed into a firm conviction. These men, however, will be rudely awakened to find that the paramount question is, shall we continue the contest and maintain to the end the glorious record our brave men have already won for us or shall we at home declare to the world that we are unworthy of them, that we are sluggards or worse? Shall we sacrifice our all, disgrace our country in the face of the world, dishonor our heroes dead and desert our soldiers living? Our national honor is involved. Shall we go forward or quit? That is the issue to be determined within the next few months by the electors to be designated by this Bill.

Could the people of this country rest in the conviction that whatever the result of