

prejudiced, and bigoted, and I was going to say the most unprincipled politicians ever known in this country. Some of these men are there. We know them. We know how they carried their elections, and we know they have adopted methods such as have been approved of by men who are members of the Government that is presenting this Bill. I say under these circumstances I cannot allow this Bill to go one step further into committee without making a protest against it as being the most unjust, most unfair, and the most deliberate effort ever made to snatch a victory. If an election is not to be held shortly, why press the matter now? If an election is to be held this vote must be taken in the course of a few weeks. I say, under the circumstances, it is the duty of every man who values the honour of his country and the character of our soldiers, to protect them from such a vicious principle as is involved in this Bill.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—I shall not discuss the principle of this Bill because the principle has been adopted.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—Whether good, bad or indifferent, this Bill relates almost exclusively to the other House. The House of Commons, Government and Opposition, have examined and passed it. Now are we in this Chamber once more going to interfere with the domestic affairs, I may say, of the other House? On too many occasions we have butted in—the expression, although not very eloquent, I hope may pass—against Bills adopted by the other House with the sole view of making votes for one side or the other.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—We have rejected here a Bill for the purchase of branch lines of the Intercolonial Railway, with very little knowledge of the merits of the proposition, but simply, as it appeared to me, because of a suspicion that the purchase of those lines might, in the next election, favour one party more than the other. I maintain that this is not the attitude that the Senate of Canada should take. We should deal with Bills on their merits, but when a Bill is of such a nature as to relate exclusively to the other House we should pass it, especially when there is no important principle involved—and I may say that there are very seldom, if ever, any high principles involved in such legisla-

HON. MR. KERR.

tion. As I said, I shall not, because the motion for the second reading has passed, go into the principle of the Bill. Some parts of it I would myself distrust; others I would uphold; but I shall vote in this instance in favour of the Bill, because it is one that pertains to the other House, and the Senate has nothing to gain by mixing in matters in which we have little direct concern.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I am astounded at the statement just made by the hon. senator from Acadia. He wishes this House to adopt the Bill because it was passed by the House of Commons giving this House and the country to understand that it was unanimously approved of by the other Chamber. I protest against any such statement or any inference drawn from it, because it is absolutely incorrect. If any Bill presented by the present Government has met with obstinate opposition from the Liberal party in the House of Commons, it is this measure. Then why does the hon. gentleman come here and try to influence the intelligence and get the votes of this House on the ground that this Bill was passed by the House of Commons—meaning that the House of Commons was unanimous in its support? He should have told hon. gentlemen, as the country knows very well already, that nearly half of the House of Commons was against the Bill, and that half represents more than two-thirds of the population of the Dominion. The hon. senator is mistaken when he thinks he can pull the wool over our eyes in this regard. I want to tell him this, that not only nearly half of the House of Commons, but more than half of the Senate object to this Bill. I had occasion last night to state some of my objections, but as I did not wish to detain the House too long I did not give them all; but I want to have this Bill go on record as the Bill of "three F's." What do the three "F's" mean? In the first place the Bill is a freak; in the second place it is a farce, and in the last place it is a fraud; the Bill of the three "F's," a freak, a farce and a fraud. A more freakish Bill has never been proposed to an intelligent body of legislators. It is a freak, a fad, by which the Government of the day thought they could capture votes by displaying the old flag.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I rise to a question of order. We are discussing the question to go into committee.