

sent that. I do not think it is fair for a member of the Government to insinuate such a thing in this House. The time has gone by in Canada when thinking men will listen very seriously to that kind of talk; the history of Canada points in a very different direction. Under the leadership of the present leader of the Opposition, the first step towards closer union between the motherland and Canada was taken in the Imperial preference. During the years that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) was in charge of the Finance Department, he talks about an Imperial preference; his friends passed resolutions upon the subject, but they never took it into their active consideration. The first step, therefore, to give the motherland a preference in the Canadian markets was taken by the present leader of the Opposition. Moreover, the first man as head of a Canadian Government to provide troops to go across the water and help the motherland was the present leader of the Opposition. His predecessors had had similar opportunity, but had declined to take advantage of it; and some of the men who assisted the present Government to get into power in 1911 left the Liberal party on account of the then Prime Minister's action in that respect. The loyalty of the Liberal party in Canada should not be reflected upon. The history of the grand old Liberal party in the motherland is replete with incident after incident, act after act, showing that this party has been at the head of nearly every loyal movement launched in that great country. I resent being lectured on the ground that the Liberal party is not loyal. Since the beginning of the war gentlemen on this side of the House have supported every war measure that the Government brought forward, but they do balk at supporting a measure that is not a war measure; a measure that is devised to assist the Government in the coming election.

Mr. STEVENS: What about conscription?

Mr. GRAHAM: My hon. friend need not ask me anything about conscription. He talked about it where it was popular, but I supported conscription although in my constituency it was not popular.

Mr. STEVENS: That is the reason why you oppose it.

Mr. GRAHAM: Oppose what?

Mr. STEVENS: You oppose it because it is not popular in your constituency.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Wake up.

Mr. GRAHAM: The hon. gentleman has been asleep; I did not oppose conscription. Since the beginning of this war there have been no Liberals and no Tories so far as the sacrifice of the people is concerned. Members on this side of the House have done what they thought was right. I resent the imputation made by ministers that because a man happens to vote for a Liberal at the coming election he will be voting for a party that is not truly loyal and devoted to the interests of the Empire. We have disagreed on this side of the House as to details, but no one has shown more loyalty or more devotion to the Empire in the matter of carrying on the war than the leader of the Opposition. There is an endeavour to spread throughout the country the idea that the Tory party is the only party that is in favour of carrying on this war. That is not in the interests of the war; as a matter of fact, it is detrimental to the carrying on of the war enthusiastically—and hon. gentlemen know it.

In this war we are engaged in a great struggle; Grits and Tories, young men and older men, forgetting the differences at home, are struggling side by side for what they believe to be the best for mankind. Apparently we have come to the time when hon. gentlemen opposite are playing upon the feelings of the people throughout the Dominion in respect of that war for party purposes—and that is why this Bill is introduced. If this Bill meant winning the war or assisting to win it, I would support it. But no argument has been submitted to show that the Bill is designed to be of any assistance in carrying on the war. The Minister of Trade and Commerce made an eloquent appeal, as only he can, for the wives of the soldiers. Sir, we are all in favour of that. We are in favour of giving votes not only to the wives and female relatives of soldiers, but to the wives of their neighbours who are doing all they can to further the cause that we have at heart. Hon. gentlemen opposite are in favour of restricting the franchise; we are in favour of extending the franchise. The Governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, led by friends of hon. gentlemen, have granted to the women of their respective provinces the right to vote. We have always accepted the provincial qualification, but when it comes to winning the war, this Government balks at accepting the provincial qualification—as if the noble women of these provinces were not