

soldiers, and lastly, others again have given their time and their energy for the success of all kinds of works in order to relieve the Belgians, the French, in the regions laid waste, as well as the Poles and the Serbians. Is it not unfair, Mr. Speaker, to refuse them a privilege which is granted to others?

By virtue of the second part of this Bill, British citizens are deprived of their right to take part in the country's affairs, a right they had acquired by their labour, and that because they fear that the great majority of those voters might declare themselves against the present Government. That Act, Mr. Speaker, is worthy of another country than the one we live in. It is not in conformity with the liberties of which the British flag is the emblem. To judge such an Act at its value, we must recall that the citizens who are to be disfranchised came into this country more than fifteen years ago, that they have contributed to its development by their labour, and moreover that, since their coming here, they have contributed their full share to the administration's expenditure and to the war expenditure. But you do not hesitate to commit such an injustice.

Mr. RAINVILLE (presiding) (translation): I wish to point out to the hon. member that Parliamentary procedure demands that he address himself to the Chair.

Mr. ETHIER (translation): Mr. Speaker, by depriving these citizens of their right to vote, the Government are in direct contradiction with the Act they caused to be passed in 1914 concerning naturalization. In 1914, the Government saw fit to amend the Naturalization Act by stipulating that the period of residence required from an alien should be five instead of three years, if I remember well; and, on the other hand, wishing to give these aliens more extensive rights, it was provided—what did not exist in the Naturalization Act—that, in the future, all citizens naturalized under this Act would have all the rights of British citizens throughout the British Empire. To those people, who have been naturalized for three years, were given the rights of Imperial citizens and it is those very rights they want to take away from them to-day.

Those who have become naturalized have taken the oath of allegiance, they have sworn fealty to the King of England. But, if these gentlemen have taken an oath, they have the right, in return, that the pledge given by the British Crown—when the civil courts granted their request by which they

[Mr. Ethier.]

asked to become British citizens—they have the right, I say, to expect that the pledges made by the British Crown be respected. What is that pledge? The very text which the judge reads, in His Majesty's name, to the naturalized citizen, is as follows:

This is therefore, to certify to all whom it may concern that, under and by virtue of the said Act, the said A. B. has become naturalized as a British subject and is, within Canada, entitled to all the political and other rights, powers and privileges, and subject to all obligations to which a natural-born British subject is entitled.

What do they now do with that pledge? They go back on it, they repudiate it, they treat it as a scrap of paper. It is worthy of the Teuton spirit, it is worthy of the Boche spirit, which seems to especially animate, for some weeks past, the hon members opposite and the present Cabinet. Mr. Speaker, is it fair to disfranchise 50,000 citizens who will not have the advantage of being able to say, when the people of the Dominion will be called upon to judge the Government, that they condemn the methods which have characterized the present Administration and especially the Militia Department, since the inception of the war?

With their "Win-the-War" cry, the Government believe they can make the electorate forget all their turpitude since 1911; they think they can thus cause the people to forget all the scandals which have marked their passing upon the ministerial benches and which have defiled Canada's political history; but the electorate will have their revenge.

Will those whom you are disfranchising be called upon to pay the \$600,000,000 which the Government has borrowed to meet the war liabilities? Will those forty or fifty thousand disfranchised citizens be asked to pay the income tax which the Minister of Finance has put in the statute books during this session? Will they be exempted from paying the pension funds to the families of the soldiers who have fallen on the fields of honour and for the disabled soldiers now returned or for those who will come back after the war? No, and yet all their rights are taken away from them. They take away their right to say what they think of the present Administration, and still they will compel them to pay.

There is another clause in the Bill which is also an iniquity, that which says that the man who will not answer the call, under the Compulsory Military Service Act, will lose his right to vote.

Yes, this is another iniquity of the reign of terror, of the reign of despotism and, in