

tor from Grandville has pointed out, the Liberals were weak-kneed in the House of Commons. They were afraid to oppose the Bill because the Tories would wave the flag against them and say, "Here, look, the Liberals did not want to give you the right to vote." Now, there is the whole game, but the soldiers are on to it, and they will get on to it more when they have to straddle the spavined horses, and use blind glasses and when they will have—oh, God knows what they will have to do, with our \$50,000,000 that we spent since August last. I venture to say this, that is the facts were known to the soldiers in the trenches to-day, as we know them now through the Parliamentary committees and through official investigations, not a soldier who is bleeding for his King and for his country would vote for the Government who have given the army spavined horses and rotten boots, bad glasses and all other misfits. The poor fellows there are kept ignorant of all the facts; they do not get the newspapers; they do not get the printed documents of Parliament; they know nothing of what is going on in Canada. The country will say to Parliament that you are mocking the soldier who is shedding his blood in defence of the King, the Empire and his own Canada. You are simply mocking him in sending ballots and affidavits that nobody has a right to take in a foreign country;—simply mocking the poor soldier. That is one of the reasons that I am opposed, like my friend from Grandville, not to the principle of the Bill, but to the Bill itself. The principle of the Bill is to give every man a right to vote. That principle is all right, but the application of the principle is an outrage upon the decency of military life. It is a crime against the poor soldier in the trench to bother him with political questions and issues of which he knows nothing, which may come to-morrow or come six months from this, and on which he cannot cast an intelligent vote. I say it is a crime on military dignity and decency to ask him to accomplish a duty of that kind. The provisions of the Bill to secure the votes are just as wise and just as profound as human ingenuity can make them, but they are absolutely useless; they are absolutely, also I might say, dangerous. They are useless. The ballots have to be transmitted to the secretary of the High Commissioner in London, or to the paymaster in London; then from the paymaster in London to the High Commissioner, and then from the High

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Commissioner to the Clerk in Chancery. Now, that takes some time. How is the soldier going to vote for candidates that are not yet nominated? The ballots have to be here before polling day, otherwise it would be an outrage on the people residing in Canada to have ballots counted after polling day—an outrage on their liberties and their rights. Now how are the 40,000 soldiers on the firing line throughout the different countries of Europe to know who are the candidates between nomination day and election day in the Dominion of Canada? How will the returning officer at the front have the time to go through the trenches hand the man his ballot and have him vote, seal it and swear to it?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—You can't swear him.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Swear him, yes; what is an affidavit if it does not mean to swear him? That can only be done after nomination or on the day of nomination; it cannot be done before; a man cannot vote for a candidate who is not nominated; and it would be an insult to ask a man, even if he be the best soldier in the world, to vote for people who are not nominated. Cannot this House get on to that? How can a man vote for a candidate that is not nominated? And there is only a nomination on the day of nomination, eight days before the election. Now we will suppose that the returning officer in the trenches gathers his ballots and ships them over to Canada. He cannot send them by aeroplane, for that would be too risky under the circumstances; he cannot send them by wireless; he has got to put them in the post office. Under present circumstances it takes sometimes two weeks to get here. The ballots are brought here. As the hon. senator from Grandville, I think in the most military fashion, put it, the bugle sounds, 10,000 men leap from the trenches to defend the English flag; there on the firing line the Germans are levelling all kinds of weapons of death against them. Out of the 10,000 there are 5,000 or 7,000 slain; that is between nomination day and polling day. Have dead men a right to vote in Canada?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—Oh, yes, they have often voted before.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Does the Bill give dead men the right to vote in Canada? There are 10,000 or 20,000 who leap from the trenches and charge the enemy. Most of them are slain. The day before that morn-