

pleased to sanction and doth hereby sanction the following provisions:—

1. Upon receipt of information by telegraph from the Secretary of the High Commissioner's Office, or the Commissaire Général du Canada in France, of the contents of the official statements mentioned in Subsections 4 and 9 of Section 12 of the Military Voters' Act 1917, the General Returning Officer shall add the number of votes given for or applicable to the respective candidates in each electoral district, as disclosed by the information so communicated by telegraph, to the votes given for the candidates as shown by the certificate of the returning officer made pursuant to Section 13 of Part IV. of the Dominion Elections Act, and shall openly proclaim and shall return pursuant to the provisions of Section 211 of Part III. as being duly elected a member or members to represent such electoral district in the Commons of Canada, the candidate or candidates found to have the greatest number of votes, and shall, if requested to do so, give to each such candidate a certificate stating the fact of his election; and until superseded in the manner hereinafter provided the proclamations, returns and certificates so made or issued by the General Returning Officer shall have the same force and effect, to all intents and purposes as if made upon the said official statements pursuant to Section 14 of the Military Voters' Act, 1917.

2. The General Returning Officer shall, nevertheless, upon receipt of the said official statements through the post make his proclamations and returns and issue his certificates as required by Section 14 of the Military Voters' Act, 1917, and the latter proclamations, returns and certificates so made or issued upon receipt of the statements themselves shall supersede the proclamations, returns and certificates made or issued upon telegraphic information as hereinbefore authorized, and shall thenceforth be and be deemed to be the effective proclamations, returns and certificates.

What was the situation that confronted us? We had summoned Parliament for the eighteenth day of March, the latest date on which we could do so if we are to make necessary provision for the ensuing fiscal year; necessary provision for the pay and maintenance of those men who are fighting our battles overseas and of the troops we are assembling in Canada and have assembled in Great Britain for supplying necessary reinforcements. Upon the high seas there is a submarine menace. We found that, even in the ordinary course, the statements which had been prepared by the Commissaire Général in Paris and by the Secretary of the High Commissioner's office in London could not reach us at this date. They might not reach us until the middle of April or the first of May; the ship in which they were coming over might be sunk. Well, what were we to do? My right hon. friend himself has called attention to the fact that there is a provision in the Military Voters' Act for the sending of tele-

[Sir Robert Borden.]

graphic information. It is perfectly true that the Act itself did not provide that the return could be made on that information. We decided to take cognizance by telegram of the statements which had already been signed by the Commissaire Général in Paris and by the Secretary of the High Commissioner's office in London, and upon those statements so signed and communicated to the General Returning Officer by telegraph we provided not for a final return, but for a preliminary return, in order that the representatives of the people of Canada might meet here in Parliament in time to provide for the next fiscal year. But we declared further that as soon as those statements so signed by the two officers mentioned shall reach the General Returning Officer, he shall make another return, which will supersede the preliminary return to which I have referred. That simple and justifiable method of summoning Parliament is characterized by my right hon. friend as an outrage. I say to him, in reply, that if by not taking this step we had neglected to make provision for the men who are fighting our battles overseas that would have been an outrage not only upon them, but upon the people of Canada and upon this Parliament. My right hon. friend was rather free with his use of the word "outrage." He found an outrage in the War-time Elections Act of last session.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: That Act was debated last session and passed by the late Parliament. I do not know whether he regards it as an outrage—apparently he does—that we gave to the female relatives of the gallant men who are holding our battle line the right to vote at the last election. According to my right hon. friend's statement, it was an outrage—he nods his acquiescence.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Oh, no.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: He does not?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The outrage was in giving the franchise to some and taking it away from others.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: We did not take it from any of the women of Canada; on the contrary, we gave it to many thousands of them. Moreover, we shall proceed at this session to give the franchise to all the women of Canada.

Mr. BUREAU: The election is over now.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The election is over, and perhaps if we had given all