

North Sydney (Mr. McKenzie) in occupying so much time himself, and allowing those hon. members no opportunity to say a word. As no one rose to speak when my hon. friend sat down, I waited a reasonable time, and thought I would help them out. The hon. member from Sherbrooke (Mr. McCrea) found fault with the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden), because he said he had not approached the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in a proper spirit in regard to coalition. He said that the Prime Minister should know, that the leader of the Opposition was a man who had spent all his life in an earnest endeavour to bring all classes of race and creed in this country to a coalition of amity and perfect love. I could not help thinking, when he was making those remarks, that some of the past history of the right hon. leader of the Opposition had entirely escaped the memory of my hon. friend from Sherbrooke. I thought of some of the past political history of the country, when the leader of the Opposition, instead of being a man of peace, was going to shoulder his musket, and fight on the banks of the Saskatchewan. It did not seem to me that that was in keeping with the statement of the hon. member for Sherbrooke, that the leader of the Opposition was a man of peace, and trying to bring all classes of people together. I thought also of the time when this country, as a part of the Empire, was engaged in the terrible war, and when there was every reason why men on both sides of politics should lay aside their political differences and try and bring the people together, the right hon. leader of the Opposition brought up on the floor of this house a question which he must have known as well, or better than any other man in Canada, was bound to create dissension and discord, and that was the bilingual question—a question which he raised in Parliament, not with any intention to bring about amity and concord between the races of this country, but in my humble judgment, with the deliberate intention of consolidating his own province behind him in the next election. I also call to mind, in this connection, many utterances by the leader of the Opposition in regard to the independence of this country, in regard to England, and British connection, and British institutions, which could not have been intended to have the result, and which could not have had the result, of causing the different races of people in this country to live in greater amity and

[Mr. Edwards.]

accord. Another remark made by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. McCrea) caught my attention, in regard to giving the vote to women. That did not exactly suit the hon. member for Sherbrooke. He rather took exception to the fact that some soldier overseas might have five or six relatives on this side of the water who, under this Bill, would be enabled to cast their ballot in the coming election. He mentioned the fact incidentally, not in any boastful way, of his own son being overseas, and I congratulate him on the fact that he has a son overseas, who, I dare say, is doing noble work in this great cause. He said the mother of that boy did not desire a vote, and was not worrying about votes. I can understand that the mother of that boy is thinking of the boy overseas, but it seems to me that this Bill is giving some worry to the member for Sherbrooke, (Mr. McCrea) because I cannot conceive it possible that the mother of that boy, thinking of him overseas and the danger he is going through, and knowing that he should have proper support, will cast her ballot in favour of a candidate, even though that candidate were the father of her boy, who did not want to send proper support to the men at the front. What is worrying the member for Sherbrooke, and worrying honourable members on the other side of the House is the fact that they know down in their hearts, that these women who are spending sleepless nights, their eyes filled with tears and their hearts wrung with anguish because of their boys overseas, having been given the ballot will cast their votes in support of this Government, because they know they can trust this Government to keep faith with the boys at the front. That honourable gentleman took exception to the fact, as had others, on that side of the House, to some men, British subjects, who, for some years, have been living in the United States, coming over into Canada, putting on uniforms, going across the seas and fighting. They take exception to these men being given the ballot. They are British subjects, living on the other side of the line. They say they have no interest whatever in this country. But can they say truthfully of a man when he chooses to risk his life in defence of a country, that he takes no interest in that country? It is all right for these British subjects to come from another country in-