

Mr. BUREAU: That is worse than a threat. I do not think the women ought to have a wider franchise than the men. Take the case, for instance, of an American coming across the line and marrying a Canadian girl. She goes to the poll and votes, while her husband who escorts her there is turned away and cannot vote.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Why should not that woman have the right to vote?

Mr. BUREAU: Perhaps we do not see things quite the same way; our mentality may not be the same. We certainly do not see everything from the same angle, as was shown in the last election, and that matter might be thrashed out in this House before we get through. Cases such as I have mentioned may bring disunion into the family.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: May lead to the divorce court.

Mr. BUREAU: Yes, and divorces may be made easier after a while. I saw cases in the last election where a family became disunited over voting. Take another case. In the province of Quebec a man must earn a certain amount a year before he can vote, and I think that is a fair provision. When election day comes round that man who has worked hard all his life and has been a good citizen may find himself in an old man's home, while the old lady, living just across the street, will be brought out to vote. I say that is unfair to these old men. If we had universal suffrage it would be alright, but I certainly do not think a woman should have the right to vote when her husband has not that right. I think these three cases I have mentioned should be looked into. I do not want to be accused of being egotistical. I may say that even at my age I do not fear the woman's vote, but I do not want to see a woman vote when the master of the house has not that right. I think her title to vote should be subject to her husband having the right to vote.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I acknowledge at once that there is some force in the observations of my hon. friend. But on the other hand, I would point out to him that we had two alternatives; either to prepare and bring down to this House an exceedingly complicated set of provisions which would endeavour to adapt to the case of women all the remarkably varied provisions of the franchise Acts prevailing in the different provinces with regard to men, or simply to bring down, as we have done, a plain, direct enactment

that all women, being British subjects according to the definition in the Act, shall have the right to vote if they are twenty-one years of age. I think on the whole that is the better course of the two, because, my hon. friend will remember, however intricate or complicated the provisions with regard to the franchise may be in any of the provinces, the practical result is that there is manhood suffrage, and if there is manhood suffrage in effect, then there ought to be woman suffrage in reality.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I think the tenor of the discussion will lead the Prime Minister to see the necessity of adopting the suggestion of the hon. member for North Perth and having the Bill put in a concise form, eliminating all reference to other Acts. I am a fairly patient man, and I had a lot of good lawyers around me interpreting the last Dominion Elections Act, but I never met two lawyers yet who agreed on it. I hope that the suggestion of my hon. friend from North Perth will be followed. To my hon. friend from Three Rivers and St. Maurice (Mr. Bureau), I may say that I have yet to see in this Dominion very many men who go to the poorhouse on account of their wives.

Mr. BUREAU: I must protest against such a construction of my remarks. I think just the contrary; very often it is the wife who has kept her husband from the poorhouse.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Then she should have the right to vote.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Thousands of women are supporting idle, drunken husbands, and these women are deprived of the franchise while the lords of creation strut about and control the elections. By all means give the women the vote.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: We shall, of course, take into the very best consideration we can give to them the suggestions that have been made that this Act shall be comprehensive, but if those suggestions were carried out in their entirety we should have to embody in this Act the Dominion Elections Act, the War-time Elections Act, and all the provincial Acts that are alluded to; but I do not suppose the suggestion would go that far. It may be possible to include the provisions with regard to naturalization, if that is thought desirable, but it is utterly impossible to deal with the question of franchise under the present system upon the basis of inserting in any Act that is brought