

agree to it, because he felt that there was no necessity for conscription in this country. I am quite sure, although I have not consulted him, that he is still of the same conviction, and all the more so after what has happened since December last, or since the Act was passed. Only yesterday morning we saw in the press a statement from the Daily Telegraph of London, urging the United States to cease sending men to the other side and to send food instead.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS: And vessels.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Food and vessels were as necessary last autumn as they are to-day. To govern is to foresee. Public men who saw ahead were quite sure that the thing to do was to increase food production in Canada, especially when that immense reservoir of men on the other side of the line had been tapped. When the honourable gentleman from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Nicholls), who presided over a committee to find means for greater production, submitted his programme to us in committee, I suggested that, instead of conscripting men for overseas, or even with the Conscription Act, we should put in a clear-cut exemption for all men who on the first of October, 1917, would be found on the farms. I felt that there would be quite a number of men who had come from the farms to the cities, who would perhaps avail themselves of the offer of the Government to exempt them from service. If they had returned to the land, we would this spring have had thousands of additional men on the farms. It is all very well to say that there would have been a formidable exodus; but are not the Allies in greater need of food than of men, and would not that action have caused a greater production of food for our Allies on the other side? And is this not what they need most?

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS (translation): Honourable gentlemen, I regret very much that my acquaintance with the beautiful French language is not sufficient to enable me to make an important speech on the question now before the Chamber. I wish merely to extend my sincere congratulations to the honourable gentleman who has proposed the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I congratulate also the honourable seconder of the Address, who is a new member, on the eloquent speech which he has delivered. In reply to that speech I would say only one word: the direction given to the last electoral cam-

paign was not such as to make Canada a united country.

Mr. Speaker, I desire to congratulate, not you, but this Chamber, on the fact that you continue to be its Speaker.

On motion of Hon. Mr. David, the debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until 3 p. m. tomorrow.

THE SENATE.

Wednesday, March 20, 1918.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Senate resumed from yesterday the consideration of the Address in reply to His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. L. O. DAVID: Honourable gentlemen, when I heard the honourable the leader of this House, in his eloquent speech, praising free institutions and advising us to join in trying to do all that we could to protect and preserve our British institutions, I thought of trying to show that the words of the honourable the leader of the House were not quite in accord with the action of the Government and with the drastic legislation which was passed at the last session, and with the means which were employed to put into execution that drastic legislation. I have no hesitation in calling that legislation drastic, because the Toronto Star, an old English Liberal paper, which was converted to Unionism, said that the legislation that was passed at the last session was a blot upon the statutes of the Parliament of Canada and should disappear and be abrogated at this session of Parliament. This statement was made not by me, nor by a French paper, but by the Toronto Star. I would like also to ask the honourable the leader of this House how he reconciles what he has said, and said so well, about democracy and the progress of democracy in America with the legislation which he himself introduced in the Senate at the last session, giving the right to vote to non-resident soldiers, to men who have no