

ing their families, although they are a credit to the country, by this Bill they find themselves disfranchised, and marked among their neighbours as men unworthy to be trusted with citizenship.

That was some days ago.

Mr. MORPHY: The hon. gentleman has not mentioned what people he is referring to. He has not used the word "German." Was he frightened to use that word?

Mr. GRAHAM: I said they were not Germans; they were Austrians. If the hon. gentleman reads my entire remarks he will find what I was talking about.

Mr. MORPHY: Pretty dry reading to wade through all the hon. gentleman has said.

Mr. GRAHAM: The hon. gentleman has done drier things than that since last September. I want to submit this question on the third reading. These men are in a different class from men of alien enemy origin who have come over to this country within the last few years. These men have been here for many years, spread over the province of Ontario, and exercising all the rights of citizenship and the rights of franchise. No person ever questioned those rights, and they never dreamed that they did not possess them. They look upon this measure as depriving them in an arbitrary manner of some right which was never disputed for many years. I think these men who have resided in Canada for a number of years, who voted regularly as citizens, might be allowed to retain their franchise. The men of the province of Ontario of German origin are among the best men we have in the province. Those of us who have gone through Ontario from end to end and have met these men would never dream of putting them in a class where there was the least semblance of disloyal utterance or action. And, if it is not too late yet, I would gladly support the Government in some amendment which would permit these men to retain their rights. I have appealed to these men and the Minister of Trade and Commerce has appealed to these men. We have addressed many audiences standing side by side and they have responded, they have contributed; and it seems hard that these old citizens of Canada should by this Act be deprived, notwithstanding their loyalty and devotion, of that which perhaps men hold among the dearest things of life, the right to exercise their franchise.

[Mr. Graham.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the hon. gentleman mean men who are not yet naturalized?

Mr. GRAHAM: I do.

Mr. MEIGHEN: If so, they never had the right.

Mr. GRAHAM: You are talking technically and legally, but as a matter of fact, possession of almost anything gives you ownership after a number of years.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, no.

Mr. GRAHAM: Speaking technically, these men never had the right, but they have exercised what they believed to be a right, and exercised it wisely for the last 30 years. They not only thought they had the right, but their neighbours thought it also. Neither this Government, nor any political party ever objected, because these men have been here so long they are landmarks in the section in which they reside.

Mr. LALOR: Does the hon. gentleman think anybody is going to prevent them voting more than before?

Mr. GRAHAM: They would be violating the law if they voted.

Mr. LALOR: They are in exactly the same position.

Mr. GRAHAM: My hon. friend says that, although he is going to support the law, he believes it is going to be violated. I say these men ought to have the right to vote as they always had, and I believe it is possible to frame the Bill to accomplish that object. What I object to generally, regarding this law—it was hinted at to-night by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and it was intimated by the Secretary of State the other night, is that hon. gentlemen opposite are proceeding upon the principle, that there is but one loyal party in Canada. We are back to the days of the Family Compact, when a few people got together and said that the loaves and the fishes, the rights and the privileges, of the people, indeed, everything belonged to this one party. Nothing was left to the remainder of the people except the duty of paying the taxes that the Family Compact levied upon them. According to the language of ministers, the principle is laid down that this Bill is expected to assist in electing friends of this Government and that in doing so it will assist in carrying on the war. If this is not the case, why prevent so many people in Canada from voting? Sir I re-