

Hon. Mr. ROCHE—But they will not, and they have not had a vote hitherto. This Bill gives primacy to the Royal Canadian regiment in consequence of their pay being higher than it was before, to throw them, who had not votes before, on the electorate of Halifax.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Does my hon. friend take exception to the troops on active service having votes in Canada no matter what their qualification in Canada may be?

Hon. Mr. ROCHE—I only asked for an explanation of the Bill. I only asked how many would be qualified and placed under this Bill, on that constituency.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—Swamp the electorate, and march them out the next morning. Better be in Russia.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I am exceedingly pleased to follow my hon. friend from Grandville in this debate. He has taken a manly attitude on the question; he has not been afraid to place his views before the public, whether they were adverse to the interest of the Conservative party or of the Liberal party. That is an indication that all independence in this hon. House has not faded away, and has not yet been banished from the precincts of the Senate. We have had an example of independence that must go down in the political annals of our country as far as the hon. senator from Grandville is concerned. He has been one of the most—will I call it fierce?—one of the most true, one of the most faithful, one of the most devoted champions of the Liberal cause the Liberal policy, of the Liberal people, and the Liberal Leaders in this Dominion of Canada before he went on the Bench, when he was a young man since leaving the Bench he has come into this hon. House and has displayed nothing but pure independence.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—I will ask my hon. friend as a favour to cut that out and discuss the question.

Hon. Mr. POPE—I think the hon. gentleman is quite right.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I will discuss the question over the hon. gentleman's shoulders. I wish to say that the opinions and views put forth by the hon. senator are the views and opinions held, I think, by the vast majority of the people of this country. I had the honour this evening to place on the minutes of the House a notice of inquiry asking the Government how many,

if any, of the 101 thousand citizens of Canada now under arms have petitioned either the Government or the Parliament of Canada to have a law enacted whereby they should be granted the right to vote while fighting over in Europe or while under tent here in Canada. I am no prophet, but when the answer from the Government comes down I venture to say that not one soldier of the King, from officer to private, has asked for this legislation. And why do I make that prophecy? Why, that question I put on the Minutes to-night was an inspiration just before I left my home. On my way to this hon. House I met dozens and dozens of the soldiers of the King, some leaving for active service in Europe tomorrow, Royal Engineers, privates and officers. I had a copy of my question with me, and I asked them, "What do you think about that"?—they not knowing who I was. Their answer was "That is right; we want no vote. We are leaving for the trenches in defence of the Empire; we are soldiers of the King, and we know no politics, and want to know nothing about them until our return. We are of the school of Kitchener, who said, "I am a Minister of the Crown, true, but I am soldier first and have no party allegiance or no party politics." There is the motto of the British Army given to it by the greatest leader since Waterloo—the greatest commander the British Army has known since the downfall of Napoleon. There is the motto given to the British Army from one end of the Dominions to the other—"I am a soldier; I have no politics and am no party man"; and I am proud of the Canadian soldiery right here in Ottawa, men who have probably been strong Liberals or strong Conservatives, answering me with "Well, sir, we are now soldiers of the King; we have no longer any politics, and we want no vote; we don't want to be bothered with ballots in the trenches when we are pulling the trigger on the enemy."

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Bravo to our Canadian soldiers. There is the position of the soldiery of Canada. Now; as the hon. senator from Grandville has pointed out, this Bill has been brought in for a purpose, brought in to help the Tories to wave the flag. There is not the slightest doubt about that. They thought that the Liberals would object at once—which they should have done on a question of principle, a question of right, a question of decency, and opposed the measure; but as the sena-