

gested to them. We had in the very centre of the province of Quebec, 27 miles from Montreal, in the town of St. Johns, a whole regiment commanded by Colonel Melville who from the Colonel down, switched their 700 votes to the neighbouring county of Chambly Verchères in order to elect Mr. Rainville. We guarded the polls and ballot boxes as well as we could; we sent official representatives and barristers to watch operations; but those 700 votes were actually polled in Chambly-Verchères.

I shall be told that they were not allowed. Well, they were not allowed, because there was an officer in Ottawa of the name of Mr. O'Connor who was appealed to, and who, when the facts were brought before him, decided that these 700 votes should be struck out. Colonel Melville declared that he did not know where his residence was before he enlisted but after the elections, in a by-election following the resignation of Hon. Mr. Carvell, we found him as a Conservative candidate in that honourable gentleman's county. I do not know whether or not he lost his deposit, but he came very near losing it, and we in the province of Quebec felt quite happy at the punishment so quickly meted out to the leader of the regiment who had seen with his own eyes the switching of 700 votes into the county of Chambly-Verchères.

We all know of the debate which took place elsewhere on the famous telegram attributed to the present Prime Minister, Mr. Arthur Meighen, and addressed to Sir Robert Borden, on the 30th of November, 1917, which ran as follows:

Would like one thousand soldiers' votes at large for Manitoba, of which three hundred for Selkirk, balance divided between Provencher, Macdonald and Springfield, or same proportion of division no matter what our allotment may be.

We also know of a telegram addressed to Senator Tanner by Senator Sharpe, dated, Winnipeg, 4th December, 1917:

"W. I. Tupper has received a telegram from your assistant secretary and in answer would ask to divide all the votes at large equally between Provencher, Springfield, and Selkirk, for the province of Manitoba and for Saskatchewan, Saltcoats, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Swift Current, and Humboldt. This would help us very much."

The present Premier, discussing the first of these two telegrams, on the very day that it appeared in the press, could not deny sending it. That, however, is not the point that I wish to emphasize; but he affirmed that there was nothing irregular about it; he did not see that he had done an act that was blamable. He thought

that was quite regular. Perhaps he was quite right, if he had it in his mind that the War-time Elections Act was to do what I predicted would be done—ballot-box stuffing and ballot-switching. It contributed to the election of a number of members of the other House who otherwise would not be sitting in that Chamber.

This is not all that infamous Act did. It deliberately selected 400,000 or 500,000 women to whom it gave the franchise for the purpose of voting in ministerial candidates. I know, and I know honourable gentlemen on the other side of the House will not deny it, that it was done with the knowledge that those 400,000 or 500,000 women would vote for the Government. They would vote for the Government because their names were on the lists of the Patriotic Fund, and on the Government pay-sheets, and they were receiving allowances which a month before the election were increased by \$5 per month, and they were appealed to and asked the simple question: "Do you want to send help to your sons and husbands, or do you want to obtain furloughs for them?" The answer was self-evident. They voted: "Yes, we want to send help to the soldiers on the other side, and we want our boys to come back." These women were hand-picked and the dice were thus loaded. So I say that in 1917 there was what I call a sham election.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: It did the trick all right.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It did the trick.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: May I ask my honourable friend a question? Were not the women voters relatives of soldiers that went overseas to fight the battles?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: Could any other women get on the voters' list under the Act?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No. All women who had a relative overseas—a father, a husband, a brother—were put on the list, and the vote being limited to that class of women, I say it was handpicked. If you had wanted to do the fair thing by the country, and had decided that the women were entitled to vote, you should have extended the vote to all the women of Canada. You could as well have said in that election that the men only who had something to do with the war could vote and then you would have made it an election of the soldiers and their relatives; but since you