

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. GRAHAM: The way the hon. gentleman wants to put the punch into war efforts financially is by voting in this House to give a value to common stock that hon. gentlemen opposite themselves voted had no value, and to mulct the country in millions of dollars. The way the hon. gentleman wants to put the punch into war efforts is to vote to give his friends both in Toronto and Quebec millions in the Quebec and Saguenay railway, so much so that the member for Kingston (Mr. Nickle) revolted at it and had to vote against it. Another way in which he wishes to put the punch into war efforts is by voting a quarter of a million dollars for new telephone services merely for political purposes throughout Canada because an election is coming, although we had the pledge of the Finance Minister and the Minister of Public Works that no new work would be undertaken while the war was in progress.

Sir, the finances of this country are very important at the present time, and I want to say that the Government has at this session voted to squander millions of the people's money in a direction not at all required, at least during the war, and has taken the punch out of war efforts more than anything that the Opposition has done or could do.

Mr. LALOR: The Globe and Star did not say so.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am not particular what any paper said. I am making my own remarks and am prepared to stand by them. The Minister of Trade and Commerce also referred to the disfranchisement of certain citizens of Canada on the ground that it was for the safety of the State, and it has been said to me quietly that the reason I opposed this Bill is on account of a certain German vote in a certain constituency. I want to tell the House now for the first time that nearly all that German vote went for this Government's candidate, and a good many did so at the request of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who was afraid of the drop of poison being infused into the body politic by my being returned. I want to tell him that the members of the Government now who speak so disparagingly of the German vote sent at least twenty men into the German settlement to live with the German people during the by-election in South Renfrew, and the Germans nearly all voted for the Government.

Mr. EDWARDS: They did not send the ballot papers.

Mr. GRAHAM: No, my hon. friend might have captured them on the way. The German vote, as we may call it, or the alien enemy vote as described by my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Nickle), in the West is not of German origin, or is not a real German vote as he described it, as coming under the law which he read as passed by Germany. The great majority of the vote referred to in the West I am told is Austrian and not German. So that the law my hon. friend read to-night as to their retaining their dual nationality does not apply to the vast number of men in the West, because these men are not Germans.

I want to refer to those of German origin in our own province of Ontario. The matter brought before the House by the hon. member for North Waterloo (Mr. Weichel) was brought to the attention of the House by the hon. member for North Perth (Mr. Morphy) the other night but it was brought up by the latter gentleman at fifteen minutes of two when this House was in committee, when there was no way of saving the franchise of these men in Ontario who have been here from twenty to forty years, but who have not gone through the formality of being naturalized. They always thought, up to the last municipal election in the city of Kitchener, that they were British subjects, and were always treated as such. I want to point out that I brought this subject to the attention of the committee in plenty of time to have this Act amended if I had had any support, but I got no support whatever from either of these two hon. gentlemen, although the question applied particularly to the counties of Waterloo and Perth—more so than to the county of Renfrew. On the 10th September, when we had plenty of time to have the Bill amended before we got to the third reading, I made the following remarks:

There are men in this country who came from other lands, took up their residence here, and for twenty years they have been voting in Canada. Hon. members in this House can call them by name. They are good citizens, and they believed they had the right to vote. That right of citizenship was never questioned by either side of politics. When this war broke out, they discovered that, although they had been voting for many years, they had never gone through the formality of becoming naturalized. Being loyal citizens, and to show that they were true to the Union Jack and the British Empire, they immediately took out their naturalization papers.

I was wrong in that, and that matter was explained to-day. I said further:

But they have only been naturalized two or three years. And although they have been building up this country, paying taxes and rais-