

sianism; and these gentlemen have a refined Prussianism of their own.

They want to befool the people they are about to disfranchise, into the belief that they are doing them an actual service by denying them the franchise; those, at least, who have approved or condemned the Administration who are about to go before the country, they had the right to vote, and that right is taken away from them. Why are they denied their franchise? Ah, Sir, for a very simple reason: the Government wants to stand by the Tory doctrine. The Tory party believe they have the absolute right to rule mankind; it is their divine right to administer public affairs and when, unfortunately, they are turned out of office, we all recall their moanings and their groanings. Had they both the courage and the power, they would enact that never must the Liberal party aspire to administer the affairs of the country, because the country's affairs, just as its citizens, must be the absolute property of the Tory party. And the present Bill only reflects the light which strikes those who are now ruling us.

Mr. Speaker, the women of this country, who did not ask the franchise, have it given to them. Upon what principle? Is it to replace the soldiers' vote? Oh, no! If however, they had said: every man who has risked his life to go and defend the country, to fight for the triumph of Liberty, Justice and Civilization, should have a proxy in order that, when the day of voting shall come, he may be heard from and, if he has made the supreme sacrifice and his body lies buried somewhere in the soil of old Europe, that he may have a proxy who will express, in his name, his approval or his disapproval of the Government we have had for the past six years.

Not only shall the soldier vote, but all the women of his family are enfranchised. The Government are carrying things to such extremes that they do not hesitate to enact class legislation; the Government, instead of enacting laws from the standpoint of public interest are resorting to expedients in order to get another lease of power.

Had I the time to do it, Mr. Speaker, I using the language which you seem to understand so well, I should like to emphasize, the comparison I wish to institute with regard to these hon. gentlemen.

Every man, on his deathbed, looks back to his past life, with remorse and regrets his errors; the adulterer remembers with distress the wrong done to his wife; the thief laments having taken his neighbour's

[Mr. Gauthier.]

goods; the drunkard remembers with sorrow the ruin he has heaped up during his lifetime, the wrong done to his wife and children, and on his dying bed, he wishes he could get a longer lease of life and turn over a new leaf.

There is only one being in the world who, upon his dying day, is impervious to remorse. It is the gambler. He also regrets life, not in order to change his ways for the better, should he begin life over again, but that he might again feel all his heart-strings quiver, all his fibres move and feel the full delight of handling the gold he risks and of heaping up the gold he wins from his gaming companions.

The Government is like unto the gambler. The Government is impervious to remorse for, to feel remorse, one must have a conscience, and this Government has no conscience, it can have no remorse. I say that this Bill shows it to the eyes of the people such as it actually is and far from demanding that it be voted down and thrown out or amended, I say: Let it stand such as it is, let it be crystallised into law, and the future generations will say that, in the year of our Lord 1917, this country was unfortunate in being ruled by an Administration steeped in Toryism to an extent unprecedented in the history of this country.

Mr. ETHIER (Two Mountains) (translation): Mr. Speaker, just as I have entered my protest against the passage of the Compulsory Military Service Act, which the Government have imposed upon the country, but which they have not yet attempted to put into force—a thing which, I hope, they will have no occasion to do before the coming general elections so that it may remain in the statutes of 1917 as a dead letter,—just as I did put on record my protest against the no less iniquitous Act for the acquisition of the capital stock of the Canadian Northern, so do I believe it my duty, again to-day, in spite of the closure rule, although a servile majority has been ready, for days and weeks, to endorse every iniquity of the autocratic Government we have, in spite of all the crushing arguments brought forward to prevent that Act becoming law, I believe it is my duty to register once more my protest against such measures.

Upon the second reading of this Bill, I gladly voted against that second reading and in favour of the amendment moved by the hon. leader of the Opposition. It was with the same pleasure and conviction that I registered my vote in favour of the amendment proposed by the hon. member for