

That is where the Government shows so little sincerity. I am not going into particulars on this Bill, because the main point with me is the impracticability of the Bill and the impossibility of putting it in force. It would be quite useless. I shall close these remarks by quoting from a paper which was in the past an organ of a member of the Government the Hon. Mr. Blondin, and the organ of the Deputy Speaker, Mr. Sévigny—I mean *Le Devoir* of Montreal. I do not agree very often with *Le Devoir*, and very scarcely do I read in it any articles that satisfy me, though it is a good paper, has very able men writing in it, but very generally their views are not mine at all. On this question, however, I read the day before yesterday an article by Mr. Heroux, with which I agree. I have not the time to read the whole of it as I did not expect to speak immediately, but later on; I shall read it in French, because I like to have it appear as representing the views of the Nationalists, and so a wing of the Government, in the person of Hon. Mr. Blondin. It reads so:

Envisagé du point de vue de l'intérêt général du pays et des réalités, le projet est indéfendable et il ouvre la porte, comme l'indiquait discrètement un journal conservateur, la "Gazette", aux pires abus. Parmi, ses défenseurs, les uns peuvent être de bonne foi: ce sont ceux qui ne voient qu'une chose, l'hommage à rendre aux volontaires, quelle que soit la forme de cet hommage, et qui considèrent le bulletin de vote comme une sorte de médaille militaire. (Certains voulaient même étendre le droit de suffrage aux petits clairons et aux gardes-malades.) Mais il est à craindre que, pour d'autres, le projet ne soit qu'une manœuvre des incas à préparer la campagne khaki que tout annonce. Ou les libéraux acceptent le projet, ont-ils dû se dire, et nous n'y perdrons rien, nous avons même chance que de gens qui dépendent du Gouvernement pour l'attribution de leurs pensions, etc., soient plutôt disposés à le favoriser; ou ils le refuseront, et alors quel cri de guerre: l'opposition n'a pas voulu donner à vos fils et à vos frères qui sacrifient leur vie pour le pays le droit que possède tout citoyen.

That is exactly the view I took a moment ago—that this question has been brought up as a little flag-waving, to try to go one better on the Opposition, if the Opposition should fight the Bill. The article concludes as follows:

Ce ne serait pas la première fois qu'on aurait essayé d'abriter sous le manteau du patriotisme de louches manœuvres.

The end of the article is quite correct and true, and I am glad for once to endorse what has been published by *Le Devoir*. Now, hon. gentlemen I have spoken

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE.

with a little feeling on this subject, but it is all because I feel strongly on this question. I may be wrong, but anyhow you will grant me the sincerity of my views.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—This is not a party question. I do not know what the leader of the Opposition will say; he did not speak to me about this measure and I did not speak to him. I wish to give free expression to my views on this question as on any other; I have been looking over the Bill and following the debates in another place, I have been convinced from the first that this measure is against the constitution in this way—that we have no right to legislate or pass laws which we are going to try to put into operation in two or three foreign countries, without having at least ascertained if they will concede the permission to put them in operation.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—More than that, this Bill may as I have said before have to be put into force on German soil, because I hope very soon the French, Belgian and English soldiers will be fighting the German people on their own ground. I raise my voice against the very principle of the Bill, and oppose the second reading, and shall oppose any amendment that may be offered on about the same line.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE—I am not going to make any remarks at this stage, but I should like to make an inquiry. I would direct the attention of the hon. leader of the House to line 21 in the second clause of the Bill and ask if he knows how many of the Royal Canadian regiment are now in Bermuda; and as there were some hundreds previously unqualified to vote in Halifax, whether all the soldiers of that regiment, having now increased pay, will be able, under this Bill, to poll their votes in Halifax, in the constituency where the Prime Minister is about to run, and swamp the whole vote?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—What is the question?

Hon. Mr. ROCHE—I ask how many of the Royal Canadian regiment are in Bermuda?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I could not tell my hon. friend that, but presumably every member of that regiment in Bermuda who would have a vote in Halifax should certainly be assisted in exercising his franchise.