

The ladies subscribing to the letter represent the National Equal Franchise Union, the Daughters of the Empire, the National Council of Women, and the Ontario W.C.T.U. The letter says:

"The result of numerous enquiries convinced these women that, considering the peculiar conditions which prevail at the present time in certain provinces and the uncertainty of the results in granting a full franchise, it would be desirable that a limited franchise should be given as a war measure in order that Canada may do her full part in the war and remain true to her sacred trust to the Canadian men now fighting the battle of freedom."

That resolution, coming from four of the most representative bodies of the women of Canada, proves conclusively, in my opinion at least—and I believe in the opinion of this House—that the Bill in its present shape is being received with favour throughout every part of Canada.

The other matter that I wish to refer to is the disfranchisement of alien enemies in the Dominion. I have not been in the West often enough to be familiar with the conditions that prevail there, but I do know something about the conditions existing among the people of German origin in Ontario—and I speak only for them. Last January, in the city of Kitchener, a rather lively municipal contest was held. As a result of that contest some ninety-six old men, who had been living in my constituency for from twenty-five to thirty years, were deprived of their citizenship because they could not produce their naturalization papers. All the blame and all the responsibility should not be placed upon the shoulders of those men; many of them, by taking the oath of allegiance in former years, felt that they were British subjects. The fault must be laid at the door of the politicians of the past, on men who should have known better; on men who should have advised these people that by the taking out of naturalization papers they might become British subjects. These people who now seek naturalization were pioneers in that district. The member for Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) says "Hear, hear." I know, Sir, that many of these people live in his riding; others live in the Hurons, the Bruces, the Perths, the Renfrews, and in many other parts of Canada. These people, I have said, were pioneers in that district; they helped to build up Waterloo county, and that county, not only prior to 1914, but since the outbreak of war, is held in the highest esteem by all right-thinking men in Canada. These men hold property, they have served on juries; they have served on school boards; in some instances

they have acted as aldermen. You can rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that the present situation has produced many heartaches, many hardships, among these people. Their position is entirely different from that occupied by persons of foreign origin in other parts of Canada. The people in the county of Waterloo are not clannish; they intermarry with the English, Irish and Scotch. It is true that many differ from persons in other parts of the country in respect of the names that they bear, but so long as a man keeps his name free from suspicion; so long as he allows nothing to besmirch it, there is no reason in the world why he should change it.

Permit me to point out another difference between these people and other foreigners who come into our country. Take, for instance, the class of people who come from southern Europe—every hon. gentleman in the House knows to whom I allude. They stay here for a few years; they work in the shops; they accumulate a considerable amount of money—because it does not cost them a great deal to live—and after they have accumulated a small fortune they go back to the land of their birth, as the Chinese and Japanese do. You never see them stay here; many of them, when they come, do not intend to stay here. Such is not the case with the people of German origin in my riding, who have lived there thirty or forty years. They intend to make Canada their permanent home; they intend to live and die in this country. I ask the Parliament of Canada, therefore, that people of this class who have lived in Canada from twenty-five to fifty years be given some legal status in the matter of citizenship; that they be given some standing in the community. I ask that men of this description be allowed to take out naturalization papers; that is only a matter of fair play and justice. There has been no whisper of wrongdoing on the part of these people. I know that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty) will say "aye" to everything that I have said tonight about the persons of German origin in Ontario. They have conscientiously done their duty in respect of everything pertaining to the war; they have given generously to Red Cross, Belgian Relief, and Patriotic Funds. Besides doing all these things because they believed it was their duty, many of them have sent sons to the front to fight with the boys of English, Scotch and Irish extraction. My brother's second son is at the front, and the eldest has by this time enlisted. As the member for North Perth (Mr. Morphy)