

principle is at the very root of his power, scoffs at the civilized world and faces, so to say, the whole world. He has let loose upon mankind a beast which he had unmuzzled and it will require the united efforts of civilization to overcome the ferocious animal. Now, Mr. Speaker, is there not some grandeur in that act?

Everyone hopes that Prussianism, such as it has been created by the Kaiser and those who surround him, shall be some day crushed; but we must nevertheless give it that credit that it fights for a principle and that it has the courage of facing its enemies.

Now, what do we see in this House? The most iniquitous measures, the most unjust and the most outrageous to the liberty of the citizens, are introduced into Parliament and in what way? As the sponsor for such a Bill, they pick out the man with the softest, the mellowest voice, a real eunuch's voice, might I say to express its full justness and sweetness. Well! I shall denounce that Act for just what it is. It is the worst legislation ever submitted to this Parliament. The Alsatians and the Lorraines have had to bear the yoke of Germany during forty-seven years; they have incessantly longed for the coming of the French armies and, in this heroic war, overflowing with memorable facts, no action has gone more quickly to the heart than that visit of General Joffre to Alsace and Lorraine, at the head of his victorious armies. That illustrious general thought he could do nothing better than to put a kiss upon the burgomaster's cheek, saying: "This kiss I give you, I give it to you in the name of France—you will again become French."

Well, Mr. Speaker, is it not pushing irony to its extreme limit to say to these gentlemen who originally came from Alsace and Lorraine, who bear impressed on their features and in their hearts that nobleness characteristic of the French race: "You are German subjects and, by virtue of this Act, you no longer have any voice in Canada's business management." Is it not the same for the Slavs and the Moravians, whose fellow citizens are still groaning under the yoke of Austria-Hungary? Their eyes and their hearts are turned towards the Allies, anxiously expecting the blessed hour of deliverance; but because they are weighed down under the foe's oppression, are they to be denied their rights? And what is to be said of the Italians born in the Trentino or Triest? At her very entering into the conflict, Italy sent her armies towards these provinces; her soldiers crossed the Alps and sprang to the relief of their brothers crushed under the yoke of Austria-Hungary.

Technically, they are our foes, but all their aspirations, all their hope rest upon the Allies' victory. These are the people you are treating as enemies, by disfranchising them, and that for the only reason that Providence has willed that they be born within a territory that happened to be under the domination of Austria-Hungary. Mr. Speaker, this is an iniquity from beginning to end, but I may immediately add that it does not surprise me.

The Government are to-day forging the last link of the chain around their necks and we intend to use that chain, not to strangle them, but to drag them before the bar of public opinion. In spite of all the Prussian laws and all the iniquities committed by the authors of those laws, which have no other object but the muzzling of the people, public conscience will rise; there will be a start among the people and the Government will pay the penalty for the injustice they are to-day committing by disfranchising citizens whose only wrong is of having been born in enemy territory. These citizens, anxious to have a place under the sun of freedom, went into exile and came to our shores, trusting our rulers' good faith when they told them, through their agents, that, should they comply with certain obligations, they would enjoy the same privileges as the native Canadians. They wanted to escape from a tyrannic government, and believing that freedom reigned here, they came over to Canada.

They have found it so, they have had it until now. When they decided to leave their native land in order to enjoy liberty, they came and settled here in order to help us in developing Canada; but they will find out that, even in Canada, there are still people who do not hesitate in laying their hands upon individual liberty, and denying to citizens of this country their rights. Why? Because, in certain quarters, it is believed that those people might vote against the Government.

Mr. Speaker, if the present Government had the courage of the German Kaiser, to whom its members have been compared, they would have framed a very simple Bill; an explicative clause, and then an organic one.

The explicative section would have stated: the word "person" means the whole male and female population of Canada;

Section first and only section: "Every person believed to be in favour of the Government shall have the right to vote and all the others shall be denied that right."

It is plain sailing, as you see. But no, that would have smacked too much of Prus-