

It has been pronounced by the Prime Minister as probably the most satisfactory Franchise Bill we have had.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: Can my honourable friend say whether this permits the names of alien enemies to be put on the lists again?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Under the qualifications required in the Bill. The only contentious question which came up in the House of Commons during the discussion of this Bill was, I understand, as to whether alien women, who by marriage would be naturalized, would be entitled to vote. Provision has been made whereby a judge may issue a certificate upon examination as to the application which has been made.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Honourable gentlemen, the explanation given by the leader of the Government would lead us to think that his is such a desirable Bill that, instead of being used for the purpose of by-elections only, it ought to be made a general Franchise Act. If we can come to an agreement and embody the principles of both parties in a Bill, so that every one will be satisfied, I do not see why it should not have been made a general Act instead of being confined to the by-elections which I presume are coming on shortly.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This is a good way to start it.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Perhaps the Government will adopt it in the future.

From my reading of the Bill there is only one point on which I differ to some extent from the leader of the Government. As I understand schedule C of the Bill, the enumerators start to make lists de novo in country districts, and in districts with a population of less than 1,000; and the whole machinery with regard to enumerators that has been used heretofore is applied in those cases. In cities and towns having 1,000 or more inhabitants the provincial voters' lists are used and there is of course provision that those lists shall be revised by revising officers.

As has been said, this is not a matter that very seriously concerns the Senate; and, if it has been agreed upon by the members on both sides of the House of Commons, I do not know that this Chamber need take a very long time in discussing it.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Honourable gentlemen, I recognize the propriety of the House of Commons, rather than this House,

dealing with this question; but I wish to say a word as to the right of the wife of a former alien to vote.

As has been explained by the leader of the Government, this Bill provides that the wife of a foreigner must be re-naturalized; the mere fact that she became naturalized by marriage no longer suffices. She must go before a judge and show qualifications similar to those her husband would have to possess in order to be naturalized, before she comes under the provisions of the Bill.

In another Chamber in another part of the world, when we were extending the franchise to women, I had an opportunity of discussing this question with many representative women. I found that almost without exception they were really not in favour of extending the franchise to the wife of a foreigner, unless she could show qualifications equal to those of her husband. The wife of a foreigner, in perhaps nine cases out of ten, is not so well qualified to vote as her husband. In conducting business he acquires a certain smattering of our language; but his wife remains at home, and is perhaps ignorant of our customs, and wholly ignorant of our language. I am not speaking politically at all, but if you had a general poll taken in the West, or a vote of the Anglo-Saxon women at any rate, I think you would find that they considered it a very wise provision that the wife of the alien should be required to have the same qualifications as her husband.

Hon. G. H. BRADBURY: Honourable gentlemen, I am not going to detain the House. I want just to enter my protest against placing the alien enemy back on our voters' lists again. I have spoken in this House very strongly against giving the alien enemy women a vote in this country. I think it is a great mistake. It is bad enough to have enemy alien men, but, as my honourable friend has said, the alien men have in most cases a better opportunity to become Canadianized than have their wives. Under this measure ninety per cent of the alien enemy women will qualify by becoming naturalized. I think it is a serious mistake to give them the vote; in fact, I think it is a serious mistake at this juncture to admit the alien enemy to the voters' lists. So far as the alien enemy was concerned, the War-time Elections Act was a wise Act, and I am afraid this measure will be resented very strenuously throughout the whole country. To my mind the alien enemies who are in Canada ought not to be allowed the same privilege as British citi-