

gress as she had never made before. She outstripped the best record of our neighbour to the south and it was more because of that unity of purpose with which our people had been inspired than any other point of policy. Unfortunately, that condition did not continue. Unfortunately it seemed good to those who are now charged with the administration of the affairs of this country to revert to the policies and principles of their traditional predecessors, and when the occasion arose, they followed the old policy "divide and conquer," and did what lay in them to split Canada in twain. When they came into power they succeeded in their purpose, and they split Canada, and Canada is now back where she was twenty years ago. It was hoped by many of the citizens of this country who looked for its progress and welfare that out of the stress and urgency of the great war a united Canada would emerge. It was hoped that in the support of a common cause, in the common interest of sacrifice for a great end, there would be found a means of uniting all our people, whatever their race, whatever their language, whatever their religion, whatever their locality, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in the great name of liberty.

It is a most terrible thing that has occurred to Canada. It is more terrible than those sacrifices of life and limb that have been made in the interest of liberty. It is more terrible than all, that this great occasion, which should have been used to bring together the people of our country and make them one, from the beginning until the bringing down of this measure, has been used by the same men, who attained power on the principle of division and conquest, to exert every endeavour that lay within them to accentuate differences between the different peoples of this country. Time does not permit that I should dwell upon the attitude they have taken or the course they have pursued as to military matters towards the population of the great province of Quebec, but it is on record and it is within knowledge that they and their friends in that province, working for a common purpose but at opposite ends, have achieved the result they set out to achieve—the result of setting that province by itself as against the rest of the Dominion. Now they have transferred their energies and their attention to the prairie West, where the greater Canada must, if anywhere, be built. It is only in that country between the Red river and the Rocky mountains,

where there is room and opportunity for a vast population, that we can have a great Canada. We have on these prairies men of different races, different ideals, different outlook, and it is a great problem that necessarily faces every one charged with the administration of the affairs of this country to assimilate all those peoples in the ideals of Canadian citizenship and British liberty. Some of these people are of German descent, some are of Russian descent, some of one nationality and some of another. As my hon. friend from Moosejaw (Mr. Knowles) has said, a large majority of them are a rural population, they are on the land because of the land, their ideals are attached to the land and above everything else their purpose, object, hope and aspiration is to build up in that great prairie West a country for themselves and their children that shall not repeat the conditions that they have left in Europe. It has seemed good to our Government to introduce this War-Time Election Act to disfranchise 40,000 people, naturalized citizens of Canada, men to whom the faith of Canada and of the King of England is pledged to give them the rights of citizenship. They have done nothing, they have contemplated nothing, that would warrant their being deprived of those rights. But our Government has seen fit by introducing this legislation to so deprive them of their rights. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, is that the way to build up a united Canada, is that the way to establish on those prairies a united and progressive population that shall uphold the ideal of Canadian citizenship and of British liberty as the highest ideal in the world?

We who live in that country amongst those people, who meet them from day to day, have held our heads high when speaking to them. We have claimed that we represented a different ideal from that with which they were familiar. We have told them that British liberty and justice was the guarantee that they had from the Government of Canada, a guarantee that would never be broken. To-day that guarantee is being broken by a Parliamentary majority, by a Government that has set itself deliberately to set the Prairie West by the ears as it has already a large part of old Canada. We have had good service from those we call foreigners in the West. They have been industrious, law-abiding and they have been producing from the earth as well as any one else. They have had before them the ideal of Canadian citizenship and British liberty. Can we expect from these men in the future the same result as in the past?