

tide runs strongly, I admit, against any person who favoured conscription and the Military Service Act, nevertheless the Postmaster General did succeed in polling in one constituency in that province as many votes as the present leader of the Opposition and the gentleman from East Quebec who is associated with him taken together.

May I add a word or two further, and inform my hon. friend (Mr. King)—and I do so because this is not the first time that there have been flings at the Postmaster General—that Hon. Mr. Blondin polled more votes than thirty-two men who now occupy seats in this House from the province of Quebec, of whom thirty-one sit on the Opposition benches. So the Postmaster General polled more votes and had a greater endorsement of public opinion in that regard than did the thirty-one hon. gentlemen in question.

The leader of the Opposition in the course of his fault-finding says that the Postmaster General does not represent the French Canadians of the province of Quebec, and that they have no representation in this Government. I will grant at once that Hon. Mr. Blondin does not represent the great majority of the voters of that province, but I will say this in justification of the appointment of Mr. Blondin to the Cabinet and his elevation to the Upper Chamber: If ever there was a time in the history of Canada when a Government was justified in making two such appointments that justification existed when such recognition was accorded to Hon. Mr. Blondin. There were a number of people in the province of Quebec who did not agree with my hon. friend across the way who has just given utterance to a laugh. That hon. gentleman and other members sitting with him were opposed to the Military Voters Act and the other legislation along that line which the Government caused to be passed. But looking at the returns from the province of Quebec which I have before me it will be found that notwithstanding the fact that the majorities in most of the Quebec constituencies were very large and therefore strongly expressive of disapproval of the Government and the course which it followed, a careful examination of the returns will show that there were thousands and tens of thousands of voters in the province of Quebec who thought just as the Government and Mr. Blondin thought; and in appointing Mr. Blondin to the Cabinet and to the Senate the Government were according recognition to the thousands of men in Quebec who were bold and cour-

ageous enough to come out in defence of their principles and for the maintenance of Canada's honour.

The matters to which I have referred the leader of the Opposition might very well have left alone. After all what did the vote in the last general election mean? It was a test of public opinion and the issue was very plain. The issue was whether we should hearken to the appeal our boys overseas who were putting in four times the hours and four times the work in the trenches that they should have done. The question was whether we should send them the help they were asking for. Hon. Mr. Blondin took the ground that that help should be sent, and he received in one constituency over six thousand votes in support of his attitude. I know perfectly well that the stand which he took does not correspond with the view held by the leader of the Opposition, but I venture to say that the attitude and the policy of the Postmaster General will be endorsed by the general public of Canada to a far greater extent than the attitude taken by the leader of the Opposition. That hon. gentleman has told us that the War-time Elections Act was a most infernal piece of legislation.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN: Hear, hear.

Mr. EDWARDS: I expected that statement would be given such an endorsement from hon. gentlemen opposite as it has received, but may I ask one or two questions in regard to it. The leader of the Opposition has asserted, and he has correctly voiced the opinions of the hon. gentlemen around him who shout "hear, hear," that the War-time Elections Act was an infernal piece of legislation. I ask why was it so denominated? Was it because the Act gave a vote to the women whose husbands lie buried in Flanders? Did that make the legislation referred to too "infernal" in its character? Was it an infernal piece of legislation because it gave a vote to the sister of the boy who was in Belgium or France doing his bit and doing the bit of lots of fellows who should have been there helping him? Is that what makes the legislation "infernal?" I ask again, why did the hon. gentleman call the law in question an infernal piece of legislation? There were two things which it did. It gave a vote to women in this country whose relatives—sons, or fathers or brothers—were overseas fighting for Canada and the Empire. I challenge the leader of the Opposition to rise in his place now and say that he be-