

Having regard for the methods which made its enactment by Parliament possible, the franchise was, as respects the constitution, a violation of its spirit and also of letter.

It will be remembered that the War-Time Elections Act was passed, during a session which was in the nature of an extension of the time beyond which, according to the constitution, Parliament was entitled to carry on without an appeal to the people. That extension could never have been obtained, and would never have been granted, without the consent of the Opposition in Parliament. Consent was asked for and granted as a means, in time of war, of avoiding controversial issues, and minimizing the possibilities of party strife. It is unthinkable that the constitution of this country would have been altered by the Imperial Parliament except upon a unanimous resolution of the two branches of the Canadian Parliament. Indeed, the Prime Minister stated that, unless there were unanimous agreement with respect to the extension, he would not ask the Imperial Parliament to consider an amendment to the constitution.

In view of all the bitter controversy to which the