

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—But the franchise rests on their being part of the militia.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—And then they can vote; 5,000 men go and vote in one electoral district.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—No.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—Where is it defined?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It is qualified by clause 1. If you will read clause 1 you will see.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—If the voters' list has no control what is it for?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—For the information of the returning officer.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—The voters' list is to give the authority to those entitled to vote in a certain constituency. If people are on that list and come into the camp they can vote, the list will say so; but you make provision for the list to be sent to the returning officer, and he is not obliged to use it. Anybody can vote by going out and making a statement that he belongs to this place or that place. In close constituencies you can shove in enough to turn the scale. This thing is quite obvious. The name of this Bill should be changed to read, "A Bill for the purpose of returning the Tory party." That is exactly what it is for.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR, from the committee, reported the Bill with certain amendments.

The amendments were concurred in on a division.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—I would ask the hon. leader of the House if he intends to move the third reading now?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Yes, my intention is to move the third reading, with a view of having the amendments go down to the House of Commons, so that that House may consider them. Hon. gentlemen will appreciate the fact that it may take some little time to consider those amendments in the House of Commons, as prorogation is fixed for 4 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Have the Bill reprinted and then we can all understand it.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED moved the third reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—I have not taken up one moment's time of this House during the procedure that has taken place thus far, and I only desire to say a few words.

Like my hon. friend from De Salaberry, while I believe it is perfectly within the competence of this House to deal with all Bills which come before it, I must at the same time frankly say that I have great misgivings as to dealing with a Bill which has to do entirely with the franchise of the House of Commons.

Hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—That has been my misgiving throughout. As to the nature of the Bill, I think it is unfortunate. It is unhappy, and regrettable that such a Bill should be introduced. However, I am one of those who frankly must say that I think this House should be very careful in dealing with it. The Bill is one which has opened up a very great deal of political controversy. Some have dealt with it in a judicial manner and some have dealt with it politically. Taking the last century of our history Canada has certainly passed through many crucial stages when it was necessary for both parties on certain occasions to come together and avoid party conflict, because of grave questions which had to be dealt with. But Canada, looking to the future, has before it by far the most crucial period of its history. For many years past Canada over-developed beyond her resources, borrowed too largely abroad and went far too fast; a check necessarily had to come. That check came just when this unfortunate and unhappy war forced itself upon us. That we have to see it through there is no question, but the responsibilities which will devolve upon Canada after it is through will be very great. What I desire to say is that this is a time to deal with questions in a patriotic way in the interest of Canada, and this is the time when politics should absolutely disappear.

Several hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—If there ever was a time in the history of Canada when strong men, able men and business men should be at the head of affairs of Canada it is now. Perhaps my hon. friends believe that a change of parties would have that effect. No, hon. gentlemen, just so long as men in Parliament play the political game we cannot have the most desirable conditions. It is a time when the Premier should call in the strongest men in Canada to form an Administration. I am not for a moment criticising the present Government, but I simply say this, that no political body, Lib-