

We are standing by the boys at the front, and as I have asked them to stand by their brothers and fathers whom they have left behind, so let the Senate stand by the boys at the polls and not deprive them of their votes for any reason. Any man who is good enough to pay taxes and work for the development of this country is good enough to vote. That is sound democracy, and that is what our boys are fighting for on the other side of the seas. By our action here for the past two days, and by the action in the House of Commons, we are demolishing those very principles to uphold which our blood is flowing and our treasure is being spent. So I appeal to the honourable gentlemen, or a few of them anyway, to stand by the principles which underlie democracy—the principles of fair play, justice and right to the people we are called upon to govern.

Hon. Mr. McHUGH: When this Bill was brought into this House for the second reading, I thought the Government had gone as far afield as they could in order to try to legislate themselves into power, not by the voice of the people, but by trying to stifle it. I had occasion then to point out what they had done with British subjects in this country, who were to be deprived of the privilege granted to them by this country under solemn compact, that when they came here and took the oath of allegiance to Canada, they were to be possessed of the electoral franchise and of all the rights and privileges exercised by Canadian citizens. By this Bill that right has been denied them. Great Britain herself, as I then pointed out, thought sufficient of her compact with the Belgian people to go to war with Germany because she had broken her treaty of neutrality with that little nation. What are we to think of the Government of Canada breaking her contract with thousands—yes, I think I would be right in saying tens of thousands—of British subjects in this country who have proved themselves loyal and good citizens, and deprive them of the right of citizenship? I went further, and said that if they deprived them of their citizenship, they should see that they were freed from taxation. I point out again, because I wish to emphasize it, that taxation without representation is a most unfair principle, which lost to Great Britain the thirteen colonies of the United States. You do not know how dangerous a step you are taking when you deny to citizens of this country privileges which they received under the solemn compact that

Canada made with them, when there has been no violation of their agreement on their part.

The honourable member for Hamilton stated that he would be satisfied to have this clause amended to conform to the Ontario Franchise Act. If that means that he would be satisfied with the form of the present Ontario voters' list, he has me as a supporter. I know how the Ontario voters' list is prepared in rural parts and in the cities, and I know that no enumerators or political officers have anything to do with it. The assessor may be a political partisan, but he is a sworn official of the municipal council. He makes the assessment which is the basis of the voters' list. After he gets through with it, it is returned to the clerk of the municipality. The municipal council then has a court of revision, after the list has been posted up for a month or more, and advertisement of the date of that court has been published in the newspapers in the municipality. If any name is on that list that should be off, the right is given to apply to have it struck off in that court of revision, which is composed of members of the municipal council elected by the people. Parties then have a right to go to the final court of revision before the county judge, who advertises the date for holding that court, and have names inserted that should be added, and get names removed that should be off. I would readily accept that plan. There is a further provision for cities and towns of a registration list at a court held by the county judge, after notice given when it is to be held, and after due application made. The names to be put on or off the list must be made public some fifteen days before the court of enumeration is held before the judge. An open court is held, witnesses are called, every one has the right to go and hear the appeal, and the judge decides the case.

I say that the attempt to put through this amendment has an ulterior motive, namely, to hold up an important railway Bill which contains legislation of importance to the people of the province of Ontario. I think the Government of the day is trying to burk that Bill, which is now before the Railway Committee of the Senate.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Order. My honourable friend has no right to ascribe motives of that kind. I think he is entirely out of order, and I do not propose