

by reason of the fact that those people are not going to be called upon to serve in the war, and consequently are not going to be entitled to a voice in a war election. Canada is facing the most serious condition that ever confronted any people in this world, yet we are sitting here to-night, after a session of eight months, treating matters in a manner which I believe is not very much to the credit of some hon. members. Only a few minutes ago I heard the right hon. leader of the Opposition endeavour to censure an hon. member (Mr. Currie) who had served at the front, for certain remarks he had made here. The right hon. gentleman did not censure one of his supporters a short time ago when he made a statement with regard to the attitude of that hon. gentleman, sneering at a man who had raised a regiment in this country, and who had fought in Flanders and done everything he possibly could. The conscience of the hon. member for South Renfrew (Mr. Graham) must have been troubling him when he said that the Opposition in this House were charged with being disloyal. The situation is so serious that we cannot afford to treat it lightly.

I read an editorial in the *Toronto Globe* this evening, which shows there is a possibility of the Canadian divisions at the front being reduced, and that instead of the fifth division, which has been in England for some time, being sent overseas, drafts are being sent from it, and if conditions go on as they are at present, considering the number of casualties and the number of recruits, it is only a matter of a short time until the four Canadian divisions at the front will be reduced to three, then to two, and then, perhaps, disappear altogether. The issue at the present time is, are we going to continue in this war, or are we going to drop out of it? If we are going to treat this matter seriously we must realize that we are at war and are to have a war-time election. If we are to be forced into a war-time election we must take measures to see that the enemy within our country—and such there be—are not given an opportunity of throttling the men who are fighting our battles at the front. Let us see that the influence of those men overseas will, to some extent at least, be preserved by granting to their near relatives the right to exercise the franchise in this election.

If I had time I could refer to certain statements which have been made here by different members of the House. The right hon. leader of the Opposition spoke about unseemly attacks. Let me ask

[Mr. Sutherland.]

you, Mr. Speaker, if a more unseemly attack was ever made in this House or outside of it upon the Prime Minister of any country at a time when that country was at war, than was made upon the right hon. leader of the Government (Sir Robert Borden) by the hon. member from St. Mary's (Mr. Martin), who said:

If anything happens in Montreal I shall be very sorry because I do not like trouble, but if any trouble happens the soldiers will be responsible for it.

Further on he said:

If anything happens, if blood flows in the streets of Montreal or in any other city, the fault will be with the Prime Minister and with those who helped him pass the law.

Those are the sentiments of the supporters of the right honourable leader of the Opposition, yet he does not reprove the men who make such statements but casts aspersions upon the actions of a man who has served at the front, and whom I saw leaving Valcartier with as fine a regiment as ever left the shores of any country, a man who acquitted himself in one of the most difficult positions in which anyone was ever placed in a manner which has never been found fault with by any of the men who were with him; yet some politicians who wished to ruin this man's reputation endeavoured to make it appear that he had not done his duty on that occasion. Does the right honourable leader of the Opposition censure his followers for an attack of that kind? Does he censure the honourable member from St. Mary's when he makes an attack upon the Prime Minister of this country? No. But he finds it convenient and it suits his cause to make the attack he has made here to-night. When the honourable member for South Renfrew (Mr. Graham) endeavoured to reprove the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) as he did here to-night, he never presented a more sorry spectacle in this House.

In conclusion, I want to say that I consider it would have been a crime if we had not passed a War-time Election Act. It would have been a crime that would forever redound to our shame if we had allowed anything to happen in this country that would curtail our efforts in this war, if we had allowed such a combination as I have referred to, and allowed the Opposition to attain the objects they hoped to attain as a result of that combination. The War-time Election Act is before us and I am sure it will satisfy the people of this country.

Mr. F. N. McCREA (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, before the Prime Minister went to