

did not succeed, I believe the Secretary of State brought this measure before the House with a vengeance, he wanted to get even with those infernal Grits of the West who did not want to join with this Government. The Liberals of the West would not join with this Government, especially after they introduced their measure to purchase the shares of the Canadian Northern railway, and to punish them, the Secretary of State has brought in this measure to decrease the strength of the Liberal party in the West. As the member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) said this afternoon, this measure is a menace to the union and to harmony between the races in this country; it is going to create disunion and discord. We had union and harmony until this year, but by the Military Service Act and the Soldiers' Voting Act, and now by this nefarious Bill, the union and harmony of this country are again threatened. Not only are they threatened, but the union is disrupted, and will remain disrupted, probably, for many years to come.

The Government say that this measure is only for the time of the war. But the war may end next year and Parliament will still be elected for five years. There will be important questions after the war which will affect the people whom this Bill disfranchises as well as those who retain the right of the franchise. A very considerable war debt will be contracted, and this debt will have to be paid, if not the capital at least the interest. The money will have to be got somewhere from somebody. The people disfranchised by this Bill will not be exempt from taxation, but they will have no voice in the election of members of this Parliament. This Parliament will be elected for five years, and if the war ends next year they will be sitting for four years without these people having had one word to say in the election of their members and the framing of the policies of the Government. Not only the right of franchise, but also the principle that there should be no taxation without representation will be infringed upon. That is a principle which has been held sacred in all British countries—that there should be no taxation without representation. It has always been held sacred in Canada. In the municipalities you would not think of taxing a person without giving him a vote and a voice in the election of members of the municipal council. These people will have to pay the income tax, and the customs tariff tax, and they will have to put war stamps on the patent medicines they buy and on the

cheques or promissory notes they issue, just as do other citizens. They will not be exempt from war taxes, but still they will have nothing to say in the administration of the affairs of the country. Two great principles always recognized by the British constitution, the right of the suffrage with British citizenship and the principle that there shall be no taxation without representation, are violated by this Bill.

There is one feature of the Bill which particularly I do not like. When we were in committee the Secretary of State said that the enumerators who are to prepare the lists will be appointed by the deputy returning officers. I suggested then that these enumerators should be appointed by the judges, as some of the members of the local tribunals under the Military Service Act are appointed. We know that those appointed by the Government are usually friendly to the Government, and oftentimes partisan. The Secretary of State said they would be appointed by the deputy returning officers, who, as a rule, are fair. I believe that, as a general rule, the deputy returning officers are fair; but the deputy returning officers do not prepare the lists. By reading the Bill, I see that the minister did not fairly state the position. The enumerators are not appointed by the deputy returning officers, but by the Governor in Council. That means that they will be recommended by the sitting member or the defeated candidate, the person who has control of the patronage, and the Secretary of State on this recommendation will appoint them. All that the deputy returning officers will do is to assign their work to them. We have no guarantee that they will ever be residents of the municipalities in which they will do the work. The hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau) wanted to have it inserted in the Bill that those appointed should be resident, and should be the secretary-treasurers of the municipalities in Quebec, as they are familiar with all the electors; and some members from Ontario also suggested that the municipal clerks of Ontario should be appointed enumerators. But the Secretary of State would not accept any of those suggestions, although they were fair—and the Government pretends that it wants to be fair, that it wants fair enumerators and a fair list. If it wants to be fair, why will it not accept the suggestions made by hon. members on this side and have impartial men appointed as enumerators so as to insure a fair enumeration and a fair list?