

become candidates for the Dominion Parliament. I know that some of the more advanced of the women's franchise clubs believe that women should be on a full equality with men, if not a little more so. I think the hon. member for Three Rivers and St. Maurice (Mr. Bureau) put it very well when he said that if we give them full equality we should not extend the right to vote farther than we extend it to men. I do not understand from these provisions that that is the intention of the measure, though it may in a few cases work out that way. But it is very important that we should know whether or not women shall be eligible as candidates for the Dominion Parliament. My hon. friend from South Perth (Mr. Steele) asks me what I think. I do not intend to express myself just now on that point. If I were going to run I would rather run against two men than against one woman. This is a question that cannot be downed without an answer, and if the Prime Minister is prepared to give an answer to it I would be very glad to hear it.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It would require the amendment, I think, of another Act. This is merely a franchise Act. As far as the general principle is concerned, I shall imitate the prudent reserve of my hon. friend (Mr. Cockshutt) who has just spoken.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: There is an exception, which has probably been made after consideration, and it is this:

Provided, however, that this paragraph shall not apply to the wife of an alien enemy. Has this been considered?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: As I understand it the Bill provides that a woman who marries an alien shall not thereby lose her right to vote, but that this paragraph shall not apply to the wife of an alien enemy.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. As to this I would have to make the same objection as that which we made on this side of the House to certain provisions of the War-Time Elections Act. The term "alien enemy" may be made elastic. The alien enemies that we have at the present time are three in number—Germany, Austria and Turkey. If I remember aright I think the exclusion which was made of alien enemies—

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am afraid my right hon. friend misunderstands the Act. If he would allow me to correct him, I would say that an alien is not entitled to vote. A woman who was, at the time of

[Mr. Cockshutt.]

her marriage, a British subject does not lose her right to vote by marrying an alien. But she does lose her right to vote if she marries an alien enemy, who is a person born in an enemy country and who has not yet been naturalized.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I understand that. If she marries a Swede she marries an alien, but she does not lose her right to vote?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Yes.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: If she marries an Austrian she loses her right to vote?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: If he has not been naturalized.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: We have encouraged immigration to this country. The Austrians that we have in this country are Slavs; they are not Germans. There are very few German immigrants in Canada. You are preventing a union between a Canadian woman and a Slav. The purpose that we should have in connection with immigration is the unification of races as far as possible, and nothing is better calculated to bring that about than intermarriage. Why should you prevent a woman, if she wants to marry a Slav or an Austrian, from marrying him?

Mr. CURRIE: She is not prevented from marrying him.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Yes, she is by this Act. She is not prevented from marrying him, but she is put in this dilemma, that if she marries she loses her vote, and if she wants to keep her vote she loses her husband. You should not put that temptation before her; give her the right any way. The objection I have to this is that it is not wise to prevent intermarriage; on the contrary, it should be encouraged as much as possible if we are going to bring people from any country to be citizens, although at the present time it would be rather awkward to authorize marriage with Germans, with whom we are at war, and whose mentality we know. But, as far as Austrians, or Armenians, or subjects of Turkey are concerned, I think this obstacle should not be placed in the way.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My right hon. friend will observe that a considerable departure is made by the section to which he alludes, because a woman is given the right to vote by that provision although technically within the eye of the law she is an alien and not a British subject. We have thought it wise to go that far for the rea-