

parallel in the last fifteen hundred years, but the blame is to be attached not so much to the German people as to the government of Germany. For my part I have not lost faith in the German people. I rather hope with President Wilson that the German people themselves will help to finish the war and deal with their own government. I have faith in the German people; I have faith in our fellow-subjects of German origin in this country. These men have been proud of their new allegiance up to the present time, but will they have any reason to be proud after this day? Will they have the same pride in their new country as they had before? Do you believe, Sir, that the legislation we are discussing to-night is going to tend to make them more happy and more British than they were before? Sir, we must take the human heart as it is. The treatment those men are now receiving from men who claim to be their fellow citizens will have very far-reaching effects. The Government may win a temporary triumph; this measure may help to win the election. But the Government's gain will be the country's loss. If this be the Government's conception of how to make Canada a great country, it is not our conception on this side of the House. Our conception is to trust to the human heart and appeal to its better sentiments. If we cannot win by that method we do not want to win on any other basis.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, from the commencement of this debate I have not taken any active part in it but I have been a pretty diligent listener. I have a few general remarks with which I would like to trouble the House. I shall not follow closely the line of argument which has been taken by my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) with the object of making a reply to him. I am quite willing to let the statements which have been made by the hon. member for Calgary (Mr. R. B. Bennett) and the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Nickle) go against the statements which have been made by my right hon. friend. They can be digested, and members of the House can come to their own conclusion.

The general remarks I have to make are along this line. Should I be going too far if I make the statement that in approaching this question some of us make the great mistake of not taking the proper relativity of questions into account? What I mean by

that is: too many of us, I am afraid, have been arguing this question upon normal lines, as if the condition of affairs in the world, and the condition of affairs in Canada particularly, were the same as they were twelve years ago, ten years ago, eight years ago, or four years ago; and we are stickling for what we call privileges and rights and the permanence of certain phases of our political constitution, just the same if there were no cannons roaring and no great war in the world. That, I think, is the fundamental weakness of much of the argument that comes from the other side. My hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) or some other hon. gentlemen on the other side have asked the question: what is this Bill for; what is the purpose of it?

Mr. OLIVER: I did not ask the question.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: And they have made the answer: "It is to win 11 p.m. the election for the Tory party; that is what it is for, and it is for nothing else." I do not think that is a reasonable position to take. I might make the retort to them that as far as profession of opinion and purpose and policy is concerned, taking the leader of the Opposition and the leader of the Government, there is one efficient war party in this country, and there is one war party which is not efficient, and if this Franchise Bill enables the efficient war party to win the election, and win the position to carry on what they have been carrying on for the last three years; if it helps to win for the Government it helps to win for the country and for the Empire. I have been at the inception of this Franchise Bill; I have watched it in its first discussions; I have followed it through all its stages. I have been a member of the Council and the Government which has worked with this Bill, which has brought it to its stage of perfection, whatever that may be considered to be, and which has launched it before this House. Speaking for myself, I do not think I ever had the idea that it would be a particularly pleasant thing for the Government of the day to introduce a Bill which would have the effect of disfranchising citizens of this country, who formerly had the franchise. I have not been particularly impressed that it would be a thing which would add very much, taking this year, and next year, and future years, to the prospects of the Liberal-Conservative party as a party. I have not