

SHOWING THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS

Following is a brief extract from the editorials in the Canadian press on the franchise bill:

The Saskatoon Star says: "The disfranchising of many Austrians and Germans who accepted citizenship may make it difficult to meet the polyglot races after the war."

The Calgary Herald, on the other hand, believes the Government took the only way out by "relieving those of German and Austrian birth of the necessity of voting, and at the same time exempting them from military service."

The Edmonton Bulletin believes the act is a statutory declaration on behalf of the Ministers that they have lost the confidence of the electorate—and of the women.

The Morning Leader, Regina, thinks British subjects born in Canada should hang their heads in shame "because of the utterly un-British action of the Borden Government." "The disfranchising of men who came here with good intentions, foreswore allegiance to their old rulers, assisted in the development of the country is," the Leader declares "a violation of a pledge given in the name of the King."

The Regina Post sees some good points, but guardedly skirts the disfranchising question by predicting sharp debate thereon.

The Morning Albertan says: "The bill is bad in principle and scandalous in detail. It disregards sacred obligations made by the nation to loyal Canadians."

Le Canada, Montreal, says: "It is admitted that the object of the new law is to perpetuate the military dictatorship. . . . We cannot imagine that this hideous trial to put us under a Prussian regime can succeed."

Le Devoir, Montreal, says: "The net result of the passage will be that all true Canadians will be "fired on" while all neutrals and enemies will live quietly here and in peace—and profiting by the disorder conscription will bring about in the country's business."

The Montreal Gazette believes that the supreme matter now is to win the war, and it prefaces this with: "Measures are perforce resorted to in war that would be intolerable in other circumstances"—hence disfranchisement of aliens of enemy birth.

The Nelson Daily News' editorial is wholly commendatory, and "regards with satisfaction the fact that Germans will not be allowed to use their votes to weaken Canadian military participation in the war against Germany."

The Victoria Times declares the

discrimination against many loyal, patriotic women is "grossly unjust," and it looks for an amendment.

The Vancouver (B.C.) World says the disfranchisement of naturalized aliens will meet with general approval, but it says the measure "appears to create an invidious distinction against women, who through no fault of theirs, have not a male relative in khaki."

The Vancouver (B. C.) Province asks: "Why not extend the franchise to women generally on the same terms as men?"

The Victoria (B.C.) Colonist admits "the measure is sweeping," but contends it is "not too drastic at a time when we are engaged in a life and death struggle."

The Halifax (N.S.) Chronicle declares "no more partizan measure than this freak scheme to corral votes for a discredited Government has ever been presented to the Parliament of Canada," and adds, "it is Prussian and not British."

The Winnipeg Telegram is non-committal, the editorial being confined to explanations of the meaning of the bill.

The Vancouver (B.C.) Sun claims the basis of the measure is "to make use of Canada's distress and suffering to save the Tory party," and adds that "the only war it seeks to win is the war of the profiteers, the grafters and the radicals of Ottawa against the people of Canada."