

COMMONS FINISHES WITH ELECTION BILL; PASSES THIRD READING UNDER CLOSURE

Government Act Goes to the Senate With a Majority of 21 Votes
—Three Members of Opposition Vote for the Measure—One Conservative Opposed.

DR. NEELY'S LAST PLEA GOES DOWN TO DEFEAT

Special to The Star.
Ottawa, Sept. 15.—The War-Time Elections Act is through the Commons by 53 to 32, a majority of 21, and comes before the Senate this morning. An amendment by Dr. Neely that the bill be referred back to committee to strike out all clauses which disfranchised British subjects was defeated by 53 to 32. The difference of one in the two votes was due to Dr. Neely being paired on the main motion and not paired on his amendment.

The members of the Opposition who voted with the Government were Gen. H. H. McLean, of Sunbury, and Messrs. Hugh Guthrie and Albert Champagne. The last named is hardly considered a Liberal. Dr. Clark was not present. Mr. J. G. Turfitt voted with the Liberals. The only member of the Government side to oppose the bill was Barrette, of Bertier. Weichel, of Waterloo, voted many of his constituents of his own race out of their franchises. The final vote was over by 2.30 a.m., and the members on the Government side closed proceedings by gathering at the rear of the Chamber and singing "Rule Britannia," and "God Save the King."

Burst Into Song.
During the votes the Government back-benchers also showed a tendency to warble, led by boys of Simcoe. Their first selection was "Keep the Home Fires Burning," their second, "Flippery," and their third, "I Cannot Bear to Leave Thee." Whether the last had any reference to the House of Commons Chamber is to be doubted. They are all particularly glad to leave it for everybody is sick of the session.

Speeches of All Sorts.
There were a number of good speeches yesterday, including a brilliant effort by W. E. Nickle, of Kingston, who is the outstanding man of Cabinet calibre not now included in the Ministry. Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a dignified address along technical lines, and Sir George Foster followed with an eloquent excuse for a bill which he is plainly disinclined to praise with any enthusiasm. From 12.45 onward there were no Liberal speakers, and Conservatives were obliged to string out the debate until two o'clock, when it automatically ended under the closure rule.

The cessation of Liberal addresses was probably due to a desire to secure a vote on the Neely amendment in order that when it was defeated another could be moved before two o'clock. This plan, however, was foiled by the succession of Government speeches.

A deplorable outcome of the debate was an attack by Col. Currie upon the sons of three Liberal members for not being overseas, and especially upon one who has tried in every possible manner to get to the front, but has been rejected by the doctors, and has only recently left a hospital. This has roused deep resentment.

Franchise Bill the Barrier.
Another incident of the day was the declaration of Mr. J. G. Turfitt, conscriptionist Liberal, who has been supporting the Government on a great many recent occasions, that he felt it his duty to vote for the Neely amendment. "I might say that the winning of the election will have a great deal to do with the winning of the war," he remarked, but added: "I cannot bring myself to believe that disfranchising anybody is a good policy, or is a necessary policy."

Mr. Turfitt is close to Sir Clifford Sifton, and his attitude emphasizes the fact that the Franchise bill is a real barrier to Union Government.

Naturalization for Aliens.
A feature of the debate was a rather peculiarly staged announcement by Sir Robert Borden that the Secretary of State will hereafter be allowed to issue naturalization papers to men of enemy nationality who have had reason to believe they are British citizens owing to having taken the oath of allegiance, or for some similar reason. An order-in-Council to this effect was issued some days ago but nothing was ever said about it in the House until Wm. Weichel, the Conservative member for North Waterloo, made a plea yesterday that some such action be taken. Then of course, Sir Robert was right on the job with his announcement, and while it does not give the Germans of Mr. Weichel's constituency a vote in Federal elections it fixes them up all right for municipal and Provincial elections, and is just the kind of a pat on the back which "goes good" with an election coming on.

Praised the Germans.
Mr. Weichel actually blamed the present Franchise Bill on the Opposition because they had refused an extension of Parliament. He praised the Germans for having "built up Waterloo County."

Sir Robert Borden also proceeded to curry favor with the German counties by declaring: "We all know that there are no more prosperous, progressive, or thriving communities than those which have been built up by men of German descent in those counties of Ontario to which my hon. friend has alluded."

The Prime Minister then announced that an order-in-Council had been issued some days ago, the purport of which he described as follows: "That where men of enemy nationality have for many years resided in this country, where no ex-

ception can be taken to their character, and there is no reason for believing that their sympathies are with the central powers in this war. Where they have had reasons to believe that they were British citizens, and have exercised their right as such, we shall depart from the principle hitherto pursued, and the Secretary of State for Canada will be prepared to grant naturalization to such persons."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier: "Is it the opinion of the officers of the Crown that the Governor-in-council has the power under the statutes?"

Sir Robert Borden: "Yes, it is a question of policy under the Act."

Mr. Pugsley: "As a result of this will the present bill be amended or any supplementary legislation introduced to prevent those people from being disfranchised?"

Sir Robert Borden: "We do not intend to alter the bill already presented to the house. As the citizens alluded to feel that their status as citizens in this country have been affected by the fact that for years they have not been naturalized although they have in the past fulfilled the rights and duties of British citizenship would be a proper and appropriate course and a course which would be appreciated by them, if that divergence from the policy of the past to which I have alluded should now be undertaken."

Now Are Distrusted.
Turning to discussion of the franchise bill, Sir Wilfrid said: "It is admitted by the Prime Minister and by everybody who spoke in this debate that all those men who have been naturalized since April, 1902, no matter what country they come from, have behaved splendidly, have fulfilled everything expected of them. The only reason these men are disfranchised now is because they are distrusted; because it is believed that they cannot be trusted with the privilege of casting their votes according to their consciences."

"My hon. friend went further and tried to justify the action of the Government by saying that these men should not be trusted because, according to some authority the name of which he did not give, blood is the most potent incentive of the actions of men. I am not sure that I agree with his philosophy. Blood is certainly a powerful tie; we all admit that. But there is a tie still more powerful, and that is the tie of home. The associations connected with home are more potent than ties of blood. When a man leaves his country to settle elsewhere, though the land of his ancestors may be dear to him, the land of his children is still dearer."

When a man leaves a country, he does so because he is not satisfied with the conditions that he leaves behind him. If he were satisfied he would remain in the land of his ancestors. He leaves, he comes to Canada, he is welcome; he comes upon invitation. He is given all the privileges enjoyed by other citizens; he is entitled to become an owner of property and to have the franchise. Suddenly we tell him, we cannot trust you any more."

Sir Wilfrid did not believe this would have a good effect upon the country as a whole.

All Not Efficient.
He then entered into a technical discussion of various phases of naturalization, and finally gave place to Sir George Foster. Sir George said: "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 working efficient war party to win the election of this country, and win the position to carry 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."

Blames Sir Wilfrid.
"That we have to go to an election is the fault of my right hon. friend who sits opposite (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), if it is the fault of anybody. He had it all within his own power, and if he had done as he did a year ago this party would have followed him, and we would be without any turmoil of an election."

As to woman franchise, Sir George said: "The dust of thirty thousand of our men lies silent on the other side of the ocean. Others are imprisoned, others are interned, and others are incapacitated in various ways. When this country comes in a few months to register its voice as to whether these men shall be supported, and this war shall be efficiently carried on, when upon the register at the poll is found the name of John Smith, a loyal citizen of Canada, who has taken the oath of allegiance to his sovereign, has enlisted in the forces, has gone to the front, and has made the supreme sacrifice, and when he is not there to answer for it at the poll, his wife is there. She, who gave the husband of her youth, the support of her family, the father of her children, says, 'My husband has passed over in doing his duty, his name is called, and I am here to answer.'

Governed by Degress.
"Hon. gentlemen oppose this measure because we did not go so far as to give the vote to all women. There is where I think he makes the mistake of not taking into account that this is an extraordinary condition under which we find ourselves, and that we are not legislating under normal conditions."

"There are noble, devoted women outside of those who have sent relatives to the front, who have done splendid service, but there are degrees in service and in sacrifice."

Passed at Winnipeg.
Dr. Neely, of Humboldt, insisted that the Government by its legislation was reflecting upon the sincerity of the "war Liberals" who had supported conscription. Dr. Neely made the House listen while he read the resolution passed at the Winnipeg Liberal convention. There was nothing in those resolutions, he maintained, to show that the Western Liberals were not sincere, despite their condemnation of the war administration of the Government.

The member for Humboldt declared that the "Win-the-War" resolution which he sponsored at the Winnipeg convention had been an absolutely sincere one, and that it represented the views of all the conscription Liberals in the House.

Portfolios in Pockets.
Dr. Neely then attacked the sincerity of the Prime Minister's efforts to secure union government, and re-

Sparks of Debate On Election Bill

Opinions of Members Told in a Sentence.

Special to The Star.
OTTAWA, Sept. 15.—Following are sparks from the debate in the Commons on the War-Time Elections Act:

Dr. Neely, M.P.: "The Prime Minister gave the first blow to national government when he sent Sir Clifford Sifton West to mobilize the sentiment of Western Canada in favor of it."

Sir Robert Borden: "I did not send Sir Clifford West; he went entirely on his own initiative, and so far as I am aware he had not the promise of any portfolio to anyone."

W. E. Knowles, M.P.: "The ground given for disfranchising naturalized citizens is that of a robber who pillaged for his own personal aggrandizement."

Sir George Foster: "Conscription being the issue there is no more efficient way to help win the war than by winning the next election."

ferred to Sir Clifford Sifton "going west with portfolios in his pockets" for Liberals who would join his Government.

"My hon. friend is stating what is not the fact," said Sir Robert Borden, interrupting. "Sir Clifford Sifton went west entirely upon his own initiative, and had no promise of a portfolio for anyone."

Dr. Neely said the country would be glad to hear it, but Sir Clifford had evidently had the blessing of the Prime Minister if not his actual endorsement.

Go Back Ashamed.
When he could make himself heard Dr. Neely said he would go back ashamed to his father were men who would justify a measure so "unjust, un-British, autocratic and damnable."

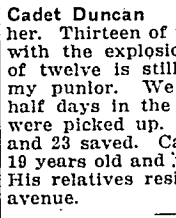
The Speaker asked for a withdrawal of the term. Dr. Neely said the dictionary said "damnable" meant "worthy of condemnation." The Speaker, however, insisted that he choose his words better.

Before Dr. Neely took his seat he moved an amendment to the third reading calling for re-submission of the bill to committee with instructions to eliminate all the provisions that "tended to remove the franchise from any class of His Majesty's subjects now qualified electors according to the laws of the province in which they now reside."

TWENTY-FIVE WERE LOST.

When Huns Torpedoed the Cunarder "Volodea"—Toronto Man on Board.

Cadet George Duncan, who sails for the Cunard Line, in a letter to his sister in Toronto, describes how the "Volodea," the boat he was on, was torpedoed: She was torpedoed without warning, last Tuesday, 21st August, and then the dogs shelled her. Thirteen of the crew were killed with the explosion and a boat load of twelve is still missing, including my punlor. We were three and a half days in the lifeboats before we were picked up. In all 25 were lost and 23 saved. Cadet Duncan is only 19 years old and was born in Dundee. His relatives reside at 400 Delaware avenue.



PTE. J. MANCLARK MISSING.

Mrs. E. Manclark, of 273 Richmond street west, received a telegram on Wednesday stating that her husband, Private John Manclark, is reported missing. He joined up in July, 1915, and has been overseas since March, 1916. He was employed with the Pte. J. Manclark Rogers Coal Co. on Lansdowne avenue. He was born in Scotland forty-five years ago, and has been in Toronto seven years.



TWO REPORTS ON DVR. SCOTT.

Mrs. Scott, 75 Lewis street, has received two casualty reports, one saying that her husband, Driver J. E. Scott, was wounded, and the other message reporting him ill with trench fever. Driver Scott went overseas a year ago with a Toronto battalion, and was transferred to the artillery service.

PTE. CARY MISSING.

Pte. H. T. Cary is reported missing in to-day's list. He formerly lived in Toronto and enlisted with Col. Kingmill's Battalion, which went to France as a Construction Unit.

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