

posed to be bound according to the proposition which he makes in this third clause of his Bill. That section of the Manitoba Act says :

"Whenever any deputy returning officer has reason to know or believe that fraud or violence is being practised in violation of the rights of electors, by which undue votes are tendered, or that any person is not qualified or has already voted at said election and offers to vote again, or tenders his vote under a false name or designation, or personates or represents himself falsely as being on the list of electors, such deputy returning officer under a penalty of two hundred dollars, and in default of payment, imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, shall refuse to give a ballot to such person and mention thereof shall be made in the poll list."

Now, Mr. Speaker, fancy investing any deputy returning officer or poll clerk with powers such as are given by clause 125 of this Act. I do not suppose that any hon. gentleman of this House, no matter from what province he comes, desires that such arbitrary power shall be given to such an official. There are other reasons why I oppose this Bill. I am astonished that the hon. gentleman who promotes it, after having been away from this House for four long years, after having spoken 57 times upon the Franchise Act in 1885, after having made a speech which covered 922 lines of the *Hunsford* when he first spoke on the Franchise Act—I am surprised that that hon. gentleman after having come back to the House should introduce legislation upon a subject on which he so long and so often aired his eloquence—I can assure the hon. gentleman that he will find on this side of the House the same opposition which he met with in 1885.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Mr. DALY. I can assure him that he will find the same majority.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Oh, no.

Mr. DALY. Yes, he will; we are not half through yet my dear fellow—excuse me, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the hon. gentleman that it would be better for himself and better for the country if he would take up his time in devising more useful legislation than that proposed by this Bill. In order to give my hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. Watson), the hon. gentleman who represents the returning officer of his constituency, some information with regard to the local Franchise Act in the Province of Manitoba, I will quote an article from the *Liberal Free Press*. I would ask every one of the hon. gentlemen opposite to listen to this article from a good Liberal paper, one of the best Liberal papers published in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). It is a Tory paper.

Mr. DALY. My dear fellow, if you will read through the paper you will find that it is a good Liberal paper, and I am very much mistaken in the hon. gentleman's politics if he would not agree with a good deal of what is written in this paper.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). It has fallen from grace.

Mr. DALY. Listen to this my good Reform friend from Huron, it will do you good, it is an article written by a good Reformer; it is headed "Scotched, not killed," and it says :

"The electors of Manitoba must not suppose that because the Government was forced to concede certain objectionable features of the election law, therefore the law as it stands is fair and equitable. On the contrary, the electorate will have to exercise the utmost vigilance over the partisan registration clerk to secure registration

of votes; over the partisan revising officer to prevent voters from being struck off on some trumpery excuse, and over the party deputy returning officer who can refuse to accept votes when upon the list, whenever he has to think that it would be inconvenient for such a voter to exercise his franchise. Putting aside the cumbrousness of this monstrosity of monstrosities in its other provisions, these three avenues for corruption are sufficient to condemn any Act."

It is called a "monstrosity of monstrosities," is this Act which was passed by the Liberal Government of Manitoba. Why, no such charge has ever been made, even by a Liberal, against the Dominion Franchise Act. The article continues :

"We denounce these supporters of the Government who, masquerading in the guise of Liberals, through means of a brute majority, seek to perpetuate in power a corrupt Administration, by thus insidiously destroying the popular vote. We hold that this species of Government interference with the people in the registration of their sovereign will is despotic, and dangerously centralizes power in the Executive, and is, therefore, dangerous to the liberties of free men, as well as in direct contravention of the principles of popular government as provided in our constitution."

Now I would ask every hon. gentleman, before he votes upon this question, as he will have to do to-night, to consider before he gives a vote as some he has given before which will be lost and of no value—I would ask them before they rush in to suffer the same defeat as they suffered on former occasions, to weigh well the words which I have read and which were written by as good a Liberal as they are. I would ask the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson) if he can stand up in his place to-night to justify the Franchise Act of the Manitoba Legislature, part of which I have quoted. I do not think the member for Marquette (Mr. Watson) will justify it, nor do I think that any hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House will justify it. I will leave the further discussion on this question to other hon. gentlemen, believing that I would not have done my duty to myself or to my constituents, or to my Province, if I did not show these hon. gentlemen who are so desirous of having a proper Franchise Act what their brother Liberals can do when they are left to their own sweet will. I have no doubt that if the gentlemen on the opposite side of the House got into power we might expect the same treatment from them as we received from their friends in the Local Legislature.

Mr. LANDERKIN. We will take care of you.

Mr. DALY. I have no doubt that my hon. friend from South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) would like to sit in my seat upon the Government side of the House, and to warm it as nicely as I do, but the hon. gentleman will never be here; he will be dead and gone before that time comes, and I regret it much, for I like my hon. friend and would like to sit side by side with him. He is in the sere and yellow leaf now, and his party will be doubly in the sere and yellow leaf before they occupy a position to the right of the Speaker. I have endeavoured to show to my friends upon the opposite side of the House, including such valiant champions of the rights of the people as the member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), what the Reform Government, which they delight to honour, in the Province of Manitoba, can do. When this Bill came up in the Local Legislature, it was opposed not only by Mr. Roblin, a good Liberal, but it was opposed by other Liberals, who now occupy a position on the Opposition side in the Legislature, and by Mr. Fisher, a gentleman whom the hon. member