

sets of franchises, one for the Legislative Council and one for the Assembly. The franchise for the Legislative Council is that each elector shall hold freehold property to the value of £100, or \$324, or a leasehold interest to the same amount. This entitles him to vote for a candidate for the Legislative Council. The candidate requires no qualification. For the Assembly we have what is known as manhood suffrage. Each elector who is 21 years of age or over, and who has performed his statute labor, or paid \$1 in lieu thereof, has a right to vote. On the production of a receipt showing that the labor has been performed, or the money paid, he is entitled to vote. This system has been in force in Prince Edward Island for the last thirty years, and has given the greatest possible satisfaction to all classes. It is a franchise of which the people of Prince Edward Island are extremely jealous, and I am sure that they will be very much grieved to see that there is an attempt made in this House to deprive them of the privilege they have enjoyed, and for which they fought thirty or forty years ago. I wish to refer, for a moment, to a few of the classes who are going to be affected by this Bill—who are going to be completely disfranchised. There is that large and intelligent class—which is known to every hon. gentleman in this House—the teachers. Under this Bill, teachers of public schools will be disfranchised, for the reason that they depend on their income for a vote. Indeed, there are few, if any, teachers outside the city of Charlottetown, who receive an income of \$100, and the most of them do not receive over half that amount. That large and intelligent class will be disfranchised by this Bill. There is an equally large class known as clerks in stores, young men who have no property, who are unmarried and pay no rent. Most of those young men do not receive the amount of \$400 which entitles them to a vote under this Bill. They will, therefore, form another large and intelligent class who will be disfranchised. Then, again, we have young men who are learning trades. These have no qualifications under this Bill, and will be disfranchised. There are men servants in families, and laborers who are dependent on their incomes. They will also be deprived of the power of voting which they formerly had. I observe that a fisherman who has boat and tackle to the value of \$150 is entitled to vote; but there is no provision under which his sons will be allowed to vote. Each and every one performing statute labor formerly had a right to vote. It is a rather lamentable state of affairs when the young men of the Island, and in fact some of the older ones, are going to be entirely disfranchised, and a new class is going to be introduced, namely Indians. In fact, under this Bill the Indian is the coming man and young white men will have to take a back seat. So far as the amendment of my colleague is concerned, I think he would have done much better had he accepted the amendment of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), that amendment which has for its object to leave the provincial franchise to each Province, and the hon. gentleman would have secured all he desired, because in singling out one Province the hon. gentleman is likely to arouse a certain amount of opposition from both sides of the House. I shall vote for the amendment of the hon. gentleman, and also for the amendment of the hon. member for North Norfolk. I wish to refer for a moment to a speech made by the hon. member for Prince County (Mr. Hackett), a few evenings ago. The hon. gentleman took occasion to refer to the election law of 1874, and he stated that the clause referring to the franchise in Prince Edward Island was introduced for the purpose of disfranchising a large body of the people, I refer to the Catholics. I believe that statement is utterly incorrect. I will read the clause, which that hon. gentleman took good care not to read, because it explains itself. We had no registration at that time, nevertheless there was a clear and

distinct qualification. Every farmer knows who is the owner of 50 or 100 acres in that Province, and there is no difficulty. The Act provided for a registration. It was well known at that time that the Local Government of the day, which was a Conservative Government, was about to introduce a registration list. The clause in question reads as follows :

"In the several electoral districts in the Province of Prince Edward Island, all persons qualified to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council of that Province, under the law in force in that Province at the passing of this Act, shall henceforth be the electors qualified to vote for the election of a member or members of the House of Commons of Canada; but whenever the Legislature of that Province shall have provided for the registration of voters and for the making of lists of qualified voters for the election of members for the House of Assembly of the said Province, and when lists of voters shall have been made and prepared, then the persons qualified to vote under such provisions for the election of a member or members of the House of Assembly of that Province, shall be entitled to vote at the election of members of the House of Commons of Canada for the several electoral districts in the said Province; and all lists of voters so made and prepared and which, according to the laws then in force, would be used in the said several electoral districts, if the election were that of a representative or representatives to the House of Assembly for the said Province, shall be the list of voters which shall be used at the election of members of the House of Commons to be thereafter held under the provisions of this Act."

This clause was of a merely temporary character, and was inserted only to make provision until the Local Legislature passed a Registration Act, which they did the very next Session. So, whatever difficulty was caused by inserting this clause, was completely removed by the Act of the Local Legislature. This clause would never have been inserted had it not been known that the Local Legislature was about to pass a Registration Act. This was a merely temporary clause, and whether it was thrown out by the Senate or not, made no difference in regard to the Island. How very different is the present position. In this Bill we have no provision of a temporary nature, and the onus is not thrown on the Local Government. If it were, we would be very glad of it. But the present Bill is final, and, being so, will remain on the Statute Book of Canada. So far as there being any intention to disqualify any section or denomination in Prince Edward Island by the clause I have read, the charge is utterly unfounded. There was no such intention at any time, and there was no reason to do so, because the Government of that day were largely indebted for their election to the very denomination to which the hon. gentleman alluded. The Opposition, indeed, are largely indebted to-day for their seats to the same class. The hon. gentleman also made allusion to revising barristers. Probably the hon. gentleman has very good reasons for approving that provision of the Bill. He is not, however, alone in this House in that respect. I hope the Government will come to some arrangement so as to retain the franchise at present existing in Prince Edward Island. If not, they will have committed a grievous act of injustice against those people who had in former times underwent a very severe struggle in order to obtain the enfranchisement of so large a body of the people.

Amendment to the amendment (Mr. Macdonald, King's P.E.I.) negatived. Yeas, 51; Nays, 72.

Mr. CASGRAIN. (Translation.) Mr. Chairman, I have an additional motion to make in amendment to the main motion, and I shall read it, in order that its nature may be understood :

That all the words after "that" in the amendment, be struck out, in order to add the words : That clause number three be amended by inserting after the words "every person shall" at the beginning of the same, the words : "except in the Province of Quebec."

Now, that the nature of the amendment is known—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Speak louder.

Mr. CASGRAIN. (Translation.) I believe I am speaking distinctly enough to be understood. Those who are