

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.— MILITIA CONTINGENT.

Mr. HUGHES. I desire to ask the acting Minister of Militia what conclusion has been arrived at in regard to sending a detachment of Canadian troops to the old country to take part in the Queen's Jubilee. Has there been a plan agreed upon for volunteer regiments or corps from Toronto and Montreal to go to the Jubilee, in addition to the 200 troops which I understand are to be sent by the Government?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Her Majesty's Government were exceedingly pleased and gratified by the evidence given of the patriotic feeling which actuated those gentlemen who desired to send a volunteer battalion or two to the Queen's Jubilee, but they much regretted that it was impossible to receive them on the present occasion. Our representation, therefore, must be confined to the contingent of 200 men, which will be made as representative as possible of the various branches of the service.

FRANCHISE ACT AMENDMENT.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fitzpatrick for second reading of Bill (No. 7) to consolidate and amend the law relating to the election of members of the House of Commons; and the motion of Mr. Foster in amendment thereto.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, when a few days ago I made a suggestion to my hon. friend the mover of the amendment now before the House that it should be withdrawn, I did so under the impression that an understanding had been arrived at by which the Bill was not to be further proceeded with, but other business was to be put before the House. In that, it appears, I was mistaken, and consequently the motion made by my hon. friend is still the motion which is under consideration. But I may say that the point of that amendment which was supported by a strong pressure on the Government that they should give precedence to the Budget, has lost much of its force from the fact that the announcement has already been made that the Budget will be brought down on Thursday. I will not, therefore, offer to the House any argument in support of the motion made by my hon. friend for the reason stated, but I will proceed to take this opportunity of directing the attention of the House to the measure which is now submitted for its consideration. I do not intend again to press the unreasonableness at the present session of pressing this measure upon our attention, because I still hope that my hon. friend the First Minister will find it convenient, after we have entered

upon the important business of the session, the granting of supplies and dealing with those branches of the public service that are pressing for consideration, and demand immediate attention, to allow this measure, in regard to which no hon. member has presented a single ground for forcing it through the House at the present session, to remain for further consideration. I also venture to express the hope that my hon. friend in giving that careful consideration, in the light of the discussion that has already taken place, and in the light of the general expression of public sentiment given through the press, will take the opportunity before the measure is submitted for our serious consideration and with the object of passing it into law, will fully weigh whether it is not possible yet to devise a measure of a much more practicable character than this, one that will accomplish all the good that is claimed from this measure by its promoters, but will also be unattended with a great many of the objections that have been so forcibly stated in this House and out of it. We have been told by hon. gentlemen that there is nothing new in this measure, that this principle of having the franchise of the various provinces used for the election of members of this Parliament is one that has been long in operation—that this was the law of 1867. Every member of this House knows that, *ex necessitate rei*, we had to adopt the franchises of the various provinces for the election of members to the first Parliament of this Dominion. The House is also aware that under the Confederation Act provision was made that the franchises of the various provinces, obviously necessary to be used in the first instance, could be superseded by the adoption of a franchise law for this Parliament. The House is further aware that a measure was introduced, but not pushed to a conclusion, under which the election of 1872 took place in the same manner as the first election of members to this House; and that in 1874 a Bill was introduced which materially changed the position of this question, for while still adopting the franchises in operation in the various provinces, provision was made to give this House and the Government a large amount of control in the administration of the Act. I do not intend to detain the House by considering at length the subsequent Act of 1885. I was not then a member of the House; but I believe that Act received a very long and protracted discussion and was subjected to very exhaustive criticism on the part of hon. members. I may say, however, that that Act secured the great object sought to be obtained by a Franchise Act for this Dominion and for the election of members to the House of Commons, and that was uniformity. With the exception of Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, affecting a comparatively small number of voters and the return of a