

Bill, I propose to say a few words more. I think that the hon. gentleman from Ottawa and the hon. gentleman from Toronto were perfectly right as a matter of principle. The objections to this Bill are several. In the first place, there are grave doubts as to the constitutionality of the Bill, and although hon. gentlemen may be disposed to fancy that there is not very much in the constitutional objection, I would refer them on that point to the remarks of the present Premier of the Dominion. In 1873 the Ontario Legislature passed an Act incorporating the Orange Association, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, acting under the advice of his Executive Council, reserved that Bill for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General. The matter in that way was brought before the Government at Ottawa, and this is what the present Premier, who was then Minister of Justice, said with respect to the Bill:

"If the Acts should again be passed, the Lieutenant Governor should consider himself bound to deal with them at once, and not ask Your Excellency to interfere in matters of provincial concern, and solely and entirely within the jurisdiction and competence of the Legislature of the Province."

It may be urged, as it has been urged, that this is a case like those of the Methodist Church and of the Presbyterian Church which had distinct organizations in the different Provinces, when they came to Parliament to confirm the union of the several local churches with one another, when what had been previously separate provincial organizations were anxious to become united Dominion organizations. The Bill before us is not like those, because in both those cases these religious organizations had legislation from the Provincial Legislatures, and they came to Parliament to supplement and complete that legislation. The principal object of this Bill, as far as one can gather from reading it, is to enable this body to hold real property throughout the country. Now, the power to invest a corporate body with the right to hold real property in a Province belongs to the Local Legislature, and it belongs to the Dominion Parliament only incidentally to some other general right. I do not myself think that the incorporation of this society is a thing which really comes within the jurisdiction of Parliament at all. It is possible that if all the Provincial Legislatures had agreed in recognizing the ex-

istence of this body as a corporation, that corporation, having an existence in all the Provinces, might come here to ask us to supplement the provincial legislation by recognizing the whole body as one corporation. The Orange association are incorporated in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba, and there can be no necessity for incorporation, I should say, except in Ontario and Quebec. Now it happens that the people and the Legislatures of these two Provinces are not willing to incorporate the Orange body, and the promoters of this Bill come to Parliament and ask Parliament to override the wishes of the people of Ontario and Quebec, by granting them the recognition which they cannot get from the Legislatures of these two Provinces. I think we should pause before we pass a Bill of that sort. We propose to override the wishes of the people of the two most populous Provinces of the Dominion, Provinces which, together, contain about three-fourths of the population of the country. So much on the constitutional point. A great deal more might be said; but I do not propose to take up the time of the House with a discussion of that kind. Then the principle of the Bill is objectionable on the ground stated by the two hon. gentlemen who opposed it. It is a recognition by the State of an oath-bound secret society. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down wanted to know why this society should not be recognized by the State as well as other societies of a perfectly harmless character. If the hon. gentleman had stopped to think he would have seen that if the reasons against recognizing this society were so potent in the old country as to prevent it being recognized by the Government or Parliament there, not only potent enough for that, but so potent as to induce the Government there to break up the organization—

HON. MR. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That was fifty years ago.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not care to advert to recent evidence, but the hon. gentleman from Toronto quoted a good many incidents which go to show that the spirit of the Orange body had not changed very much during the last fifty years, and that in the city of Toronto to-day the same