

not vote afterwards, if they did not want to. How can he justify placing upon the lists hundreds of these men who never voted before, unless he has some sinister motive, some party motive, some motive not of good to the country, but possibly of gain to the party he follows and worships. That is the only reason. I believe in my heart the reason he wants to get the names on the voters' list is that he believes, and those associated with him believe, and I think the First Minister believes, that the Indian agent will have sufficient influence of a corrupt and sinister kind over the Indian bands, and will be able to compel them to vote in the way the Indian agent wishes, that is, in favor of the Government. I think the fact should be emphasised that the proposition, and the only one made by the hon. member for South Brant, is that, as you have given the Indian the right to vote, you should confine it to those who have the manliness and courage to come forward and ask it. Do not force the right to vote on men who do not want it; do not put hundreds of names on the voters' list of men who do not seek to be put there. It is all nonsense to talk about drawing a distinction between the white and the red man. That argument has been so fully presented that I will not go over it again. Every part of your legislation which has reference to Indians draws a broad distinction between the Indian and the white man. It treats the former as a child, as one not capable of controlling his own affairs. You have declared, time and again, that he is unfit to manage his own affairs, and you now seek to give him a share in the management of ours. The proposition is untenable; but the committee have accepted it, and we now seek to surround it with the safeguard, that the man who has never exercised the franchise and is wholly under the control of the Government agent, should, if he wants the franchise, come forward and ask for it himself. What is the second proposition involved in the amendment? It is, that if he is going to vote on property he will give such a description as will enable you to identify it. There are Indians half civilised, living on reserves granted by the Crown, and if they are going to vote on distinct parts of the reserve, which they claim to occupy, let them define the boundaries, so that a third party can verify the descriptions and find out whether they have the right to vote or not. Is there anything unjust in any one of those propositions? But your proposition simply involves this one broad fact, that an Indian agent, having 200 or 300 or 400 men on a reserve, may come forward himself and put all their unpronounceable names, which are no indication to white men that they occupy locations on the reserve, on the list, without giving any description of their location, so that no white man can identify the lots of those Indians, to find out whether there has been fraud or misrepresentation or not, and those Indians put on the list by the agent himself, controlled by the agent, under the Superintendent General, may and will be induced to vote in favor of the political party that they think will confer extra privileges upon them. The very statement of facts made by the hon. member for Bothwell should open the eyes of hon. gentlemen. The First Minister was not making his proposition in a hurry. He was laying his grounds carefully, for months and months back, before he made it, to curry favor with the Indians, taking steps, which I say are indefensible, with reference to moneys claimed as due them by the Indians, allowing the Indians to receive moneys which certainly he ought not to have allowed them to receive, except with the consent of those parties against whom the moneys are to be charged. And he had not a word to say in reply to the hon. member for Bothwell, when he read the speech of the Finance Minister of Ontario. I shall read the closing part of that speech, which that hon. gentleman did not read.

Mr. McCALLUM. You may as well give us the whole of it.

Mr. DAVIES. It would be very much better if some hon. gentlemen who interrupt would endeavor to frame some kind of reply to the charge contained in the statement which has been read from the Treasurer of Ontario. That gentleman, after the statement which has been read, went on to say:

"But a few days before that took place, on the 21st October, we find an Order in Council had been passed by the Dominion Government, on the 7th of that month, on the recommendation of Sir John A. Macdonald, directing that this sum should be charged against the Province as a liability and credited to the Indian fund; and more, he directed that the Indians should be notified that the amount had been placed to their credit."

Careful man, prudent man, far-seeing man; he was not simply going to credit the money to the Indians, but he took care to notify the Indians that he had done it. I have done it; I, in my own proper person have appropriated the money, without asking Quebec or Ontario for their assent or consent, and what you get, you owe to me, the great chieftain of the Dominion Government, whom I ask you to vote for in the future, or for those whom I will name to you, the great chieftain whom you have christened "Old To-morrow." The Treasurer of Ontario goes on:

"And they have actually been allowed to draw a portion of the money."

I say this action is most astonishing, particularly when we consider that an arrangement was entered into between the Dominion and the Provinces, some years ago, that no charge should be made by the Dominion or allowed against the Provinces without the concurrence of the Provincial Treasurers. Yet, in defiance of that, we find this charge made against the Province, and to complicate matters, to enhance the difficulties of a settlement, we find the Indians have been notified that the money has been placed to their credit, and that they have drawn some \$6,000. Here is a large amount of public money, which, on the authority of the Finance Minister of Ontario, we learn has been drawn in direct defiance of an arrangement between the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario and the Dominion of Canada, placed to the credit of the Indians, appropriated by the Indians, under the authority and at the request of Sir John A. Macdonald, some months ago. It looks as if it was done to pave the way for this Bill which he has introduced, and to give him an argument to use when he goes before the Indians and asks them to record for him the votes which he, as the great chieftain, by this Bill hopes to confer upon them—nay, not hopes to confer upon them—the votes he is seeking by this Bill to force upon them, against their will. He will not accept the amendment of my hon. friend from Brant, that they shall have the votes only when they wish them. He will not accept the amendment, of my hon. friend from Brant, that they shall have the franchise only when they can show that they occupy a distinct part of the reserve. He will not accept the amendment, that they shall only have the franchise when they can show, on oath, that they are entitled to the vote. But he forces the vote upon them, after paving the way to their good graces and favour, so that, after forcing the vote on them, he may induce them to use it for his own purposes. This is a reasonable, fair and just amendment. There has not been an argument used against its acceptance, and it will present itself, to every thoughtful man in the country who reads it, as based on justice, fair in itself, and one which, if the committee desires only to grant the vote to those Indians who should have them, the committee would accept without reserve. If the committee votes it down in silence, on the other side of the House, it will show that those hon. gentlemen do not desire to confer the vote on the intelligent Indian, on the Indian who has got the status of a free citizen, but to force the vote upon a class of Indians who are not fit to exercise the franchise,