

the House. The hon. gentleman came over here and sat for a moment, and I went over and sat beside him.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It is a great pity the hon. gentleman did not refer to this before the leader of the Opposition left.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The argument was made when the leader of the Opposition was here and made twice to-night—when he came over to this side and when I crossed over to him.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. gentleman said, the first time, that the agreement was made across the floor of the House, but now he tells us it was not.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It was not made publicly from my seat speaking across the floor of the House to the hon. leader of the Opposition, but it was made in the way I have stated.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. There is nothing clear. The leader of the Opposition left this Chamber at a quarter past eleven to-night. I happened to go out of the House with him and am satisfied I would have heard about this arrangement, but I heard no such observation from him nor from the hon. gentleman. I was following the debate very closely and am satisfied that if there had been any impression in the mind of the leader of the Opposition that the debate was to close to-night, he would have communicated it to me. From the time the hon. gentleman mentions this conversation took place, no hon. gentleman on this side heard a word about the arrangement.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. leader of the Opposition may or may not have communicated it, but it was made in the presence of the hon. member for York, who sits next to him.

Mr. WALLACE. According to the statement of the hon. Minister, there was no knowledge of that communicated to the House, and no consent of the House obtained. There was nothing but the conversation which he says he had with the leader of the Opposition. I was rather astounded at the assurance of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, when he said last Friday night that the House must that night come to a division. Well, Mr. Chairman, the House does not come to a division until it is ready. No Government can force the House to a division if the members are anxious to speak, and the members were anxious to discuss this measure, so that the House was not ready to come to a division on Friday night, it was late, as we all know, on the following Tuesday, when the House came to a division, and even then some hon. members, who were anxious to speak,

had to be closed off. But to-night we have had the Minister of Marine and Fisheries get up on two different occasions and attempt to stay discussion. He took up the Bill, read various clauses, told us we could not object to the one or to the other because we had discussed the principle of the Bill, and that principle had been ratified. There was therefore, he said, to be no further discussion. On every clause that comes up, we are to have the same autocratic statement that we must not discuss it, because the principle has already been decided. Mr. Chairman, we are going to discuss this Bill, and it comes with very bad grace when the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, whose record we know in 1885, when he spent days and weeks and months in discussing a Franchise Bill—

Mr. TAYLOR. After the principle was affirmed.

Mr. WALLACE. After the principle was affirmed, too. I remember, as great a man certainly as the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the late Sir John Macdonald, saying that a Franchise Bill was of such an important character that a whole session should really be devoted to that one subject. Yet we have the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who does not know anything about this Bill, who cannot tell the franchise of any one province except that simple one of his own, saying he is going to push this through to-night. He tells us that we must put this complicated Bill, with all those different franchises of all the different provinces—indefensible as many of them are—through in the one night. We are not going to put them through in the one night, and not any sooner than we think it proper and convenient. These matters are too important to be hastily rushed through. We have had an interesting and important discussion here to-night, and yet the hon. Minister gets up on two different occasions and attempts to domineer and dictate to the House by saying to us: You must not discuss this Bill; all you have to do is to pass the clauses. That thing cannot be done. The Minister of Marine must understand that he cannot force a Bill through the House in that arbitrary and despotic manner. This Bill was being discussed in a very interesting way to me. I was listening occasionally, and taking a little part in the debate, and we are going to discuss it still further.

We have heard the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) point out the inequalities of the Manitoba franchise law, and produce incontrovertible evidence, the sworn statement of an honourable man, of the iniquity practiced under that franchise. We are asked to-night to shut our eyes and open our mouths and just swallow this Bill whole without any consideration. I should have expected that the gentlemen who are in charge of the Government would have got up and explained or done something to