

"8. That they are not qualified to serve as jurors, or liable for service in the militia.

"9. That they have no interest, beyond the receipt of their annuities, in the government of the country.

"10. And that they can, by severing their tribal relations, and conforming to the provisions of the Indian Act of 1880, assume the duties of citizenship by accepting the responsibilities attached to the rights and privileges enjoyed by the whites, and thus secure the benefit of the franchise :

"Therefore, this meeting heartily endorses the means that have been taken by the Liberal party in the House of Commons to expose the full meaning of this measure, which, if it became law, could not, in its result, but be fraught with most serious consequences to the progress, peace and permanency of this Dominion."

Those are the opinions that are expressed throughout the country, and hon. gentlemen opposite will find they are more largely entertained than they are aware of. The hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Rykert) spoke in regard to assessments, remarking that assessments were frequently lower than the actual value. I know of my own knowledge that in towns and villages the assessment is frequently above the actual cash value; and so the hon. gentleman's argument is of very little value.

Mr. SPROULE. How is it in townships?

Mr. McCRAANEY. I am not so well acquainted with the assessments in townships, but I believe they are about the actual cash value of the property. I look upon this Act as one of the most hateful ever submitted to Parliament. I desire to express my strongest dissent from its provisions, and I feel that this is a measure striking below the belt, that it is a measure intended to centralise the whole Conservative power of the country in one man, and in doing so, to secure control of the elections.

Mr. DAWSON. There has been a good deal said to-night about Indian enfranchisement, and all sorts of topics, and as the discussion has taken such a wide range, I suppose I shall be at liberty to refer back to what has occurred. This question of Indian enfranchisement is not understood, or at least it has been alluded to by hon. gentlemen who should understand it, and especially by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), as if they did not understand it. Enfranchisement, as set out in the Indian Act, simply relates to Indians on reserves, and does not apply to Indians outside of reserves; and it provides that an Indian shall be considered enfranchised when he becomes possessed of a lot of land in his own right within the reserve, and has gone through certain forms. But this enfranchisement has nothing to do with voting. If the motion of the hon. member for Bothwell had passed it would have disfranchised the Indians who are now enfranchised. The Indians of the older Provinces, who are living outside of reserves like other people and who now vote, would, if that motion had carried, have been obliged to again go on reserves and acquire land before they could exercise the franchise. I point this out to show that some hon. gentlemen who have spoken do not exactly understand what is meant by enfranchisement under the Indian Act.

Mr. DAVIES. How many are outside of Indian reserves?

Mr. DAWSON. Not a great many; a few in all our villages and towns throughout the Dominion. I could give the number in my constituency of those who live outside the reserves. Another point to which I desire to call attention is this, that the Act, as regards Indians, contains nothing new. The same thing occurs in the Confederation Act, which in section 41 provides :

"That until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides at any election for a member of the House of Commons for the district of Algoma, in addition to persons qualified by the law of the Province of Canada to vote, every male British subject of the age of twenty-one years, or upwards, being a householder, shall have a vote."

An hon. MEMBER. This Bill cannot affect that.

Mr. DAWSON. A householder is to have a vote. The Confederation Act gives the Indian a vote if he is a house-

holder, and all this Bill gives him is the right to vote if qualified like other people. I repeat it is plainly said in the Confederation Act that every person of twenty-one years and upwards, and being a householder, in the district of Algoma, shall have a vote at elections there. There are no exceptions made, and that is in a district covering one-half of the territory of Ontario. Some hon. members have said, and more particularly the member for Bothwell, that we have been exceedingly liberal about extending the franchise to Indians. That hon. gentleman said it would enfranchise 50,000, 10,000 of whom would vote, but he is alone in that opinion. The hon. member for Halton (Mr. McCraney) has spoken very strongly on this subject, saying that it was monstrous to give Indians votes. At the same time he quoted from the Ontario Act to show how it extended the franchise and how very liberal its provisions were as compared with those of the Bill now before the House. What is the effect of that Act? It goes quite as far in giving the franchise to Indians as this Dominion Bill does. Such is the effect of the Ontario Act, which is esteemed by the Opposition as such a perfect measure. In order that the House may understand how the Legislature of Ontario deals with this matter in its election law, I will read from the revised statutes the clause relating to Indians all over the Province of Ontario. The old law of Ontario says this :

"All Indians or persons with part Indian blood who have been duly enfranchised, and all Indians or persons with part Indian blood who do not reside among Indians, though they participate in the annuities, interest moneys and rents of a tribe, band or body of Indians, subject to the same qualifications in other respects, and to the same provisions as other persons in the electoral districts."

That law was interpreted and supposed to mean that all Indians outside of reservations and living as other people do, were at liberty to vote like other people, and also that all enfranchised Indians within the reservations were at liberty to vote. In 1882 a new election law was passed in Ontario, and it provided that all Indians might vote who did not receive interest moneys or annuities from the Government. This provision was made, notwithstanding that the annuity was something which no Government had the slightest influence over, and was money which was received from his lands, and therefore, although it has been spoken of in this House as a gratuity or a gift to these people, it is not a gift in any sense, but a payment to which they are justly entitled, a payment confirmed to them by treaty, and a payment over which no Government can exercise the slightest influence. Now, what are the provisions in the last Bill passed by the Ontario Legislature. It says :

"Where there is a voters' list, all Indians, or persons with part Indian blood, who have been duly enfranchised, and all Indians or persons with part Indian blood who do not reside among Indians, though they participate in the annuities, interest, moneys and rents of a tribe, band or body of Indians, subject to the same qualifications in other respects, and to the same provisions and restrictions as other persons in the electoral districts."

"But the Indians or persons with part Indian blood who are entitled to vote where there is no voters' list, shall be only the following, namely:—All Indians, or persons with part Indian blood, who have been duly enfranchised, and all unenfranchised Indians or persons with part Indian blood who do not participate in the annuities, interests, moneys or rents of a tribe, band or body of Indians, and do not reside among Indians, subject to the same qualifications in other respects and to the same provisions and restrictions as other persons in the same electoral districts."

That, in fact, enfranchises all Indians who are qualified as other people are, or, in other words, all Indians who live like white people. Now, all Indians pay taxes to the Dominion Government. I saw a calculation not long ago by a gentleman who takes an interest in Indian matters, showing that the indirect taxes which the Indians pay are greater on the average than those paid by white men. Before now we have seen Indians in Parliament, and they have not shown themselves to be inferior to other men. I believe that at one time a large portion of the Legislature of Manitoba was composed of Indians, and they did not show any inferiority