

in this House when a measure of this kind was brought before Parliament, and the change which that measure would have made in our electoral law was at once taken exception to by, I believe, every Senator connected with Prince Edward Island at that time, notably by an honorable gentleman who at the present time occupies the position of Governor of Prince Edward Island. Acting with my hon. friends opposite, I took part in opposing that measure, although it was introduced by my political friends, and I had the great satisfaction of knowing that the course I had adopted was satisfactory to the people of my Province, and it was also a satisfactory thing that this House on that occasion performed its proper role under the constitution. The Senate interposed between the other branch of the legislature, and a measure which, had it become law, would have been odious at all events in Prince Edward Island, was opposed, and the amendment moved by this body to the electoral franchise, so far as it related to Prince Edward Island, was at once adopted in the other House, and the difficulty was thus solved.

The principle upon which that measure is based is one which naturally will lead to such difficulties, because its principle so far as I recollect, is that uniformity in the franchise should be established, a thing which is not desirable under the circumstances. The difference in the institutions and in the populations of the several provinces is such that it seems to me a certain thing that each province should adopt its franchise to its own particular views and circumstances. What may be satisfactory in one province may be altogether impracticable and unsatisfactory in another. Thus, I suppose, it happens that manhood suffrage which has been found to answer so well in Prince Edward Island where the population is to a very large extent a rural one, might not be so successful where there are large cities and large numbers of immigrants arriving who, perhaps, are still ignorant of our ways and not in a position to exercise the franchise in the Dominion until they have lived, at all events for some time, amongst us, and have obtained property. For these reasons I objected to the former Franchise

Bill, and I cannot accept this one as it stands at present.

As to the paragraph which refers to the Canadian Pacific Railway, I must say that I shall see it adopted with very great regret indeed. There has been much congratulation over it at different times during the progress of this work, at the rapid advance which has been made, and the great success of the plan adopted by Parliament for the completion of the road. Now we suddenly find the tables turned, and this powerful and wealthy syndicate coming to Parliament for an alteration of the terms. I must say that I feel great regret that such should be the case, and I think if there is any advantage to come out of such a state of things it may be this, that Parliament may take advantage of this occasion to undo some of the mischief which was done on a former occasion, and insist upon some concession from the Company in return for any that may be now granted. Until we are acquainted with all the circumstances it is perhaps, unnecessary and unwise to speculate upon it, but I think the Government ought not to let such an opportunity pass as the reconsidering of the terms will afford. We may observe that in the United States at the late Congress, the President called attention to the subject of legislation controlling railway companies, and it has been found in that great country that evils arising from the establishment of railway companies with great privileges and immense wealth are such that only the paramount power of Congress is adequate to deal with it. I remember to have stated my impression at the time that the Bill was before the Senate, that sooner or later the same thing would have to be done in Canada, and, if an opportunity occurs soon, so much the better. I am sorry to have detained the House longer than I anticipated, and to have spoken, I fear, disconnectedly, which arises from the fact that I have not been able to give my attention to the subject, because of temporary illness, since my arrival in Ottawa.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—*I think perhaps it is to be regretted that we are departing, session after session, from the Parliamentary rule which, on occasions of this kind in the past has been to confine*