

erally satisfied with the concessions made in this Bill to their province, and I am also. I think the House has acted in a very liberal manner towards Prince Edward Island.

HON. MR. PLUMB—My hon. friend opposite has moved an amendment to the Franchise Bill which provides that his province shall be excepted from the operation of the Bill. An amendment was made in the other House to the effect that all those who are enrolled upon the Prince Edward Island voters' list should remain as such voters. That was departing really from the principle of uniformity in favor of the hon. gentleman's province. My hon. friend on my right (Mr. Howlan) has well said that when the hon. gentleman and his friends chose to cast in their lot with the Dominion they did so with a full knowledge that this Parliament had power to establish a uniform franchise for the confederation. They never could have supposed, until they heard the hon. member from DeLanau-diere speak, that the province of Quebec would solemnly advocate the principle of universal suffrage. They never could have supposed, except under the strange conditions which bring together those singular bed fellows—my hon. friend from DeLanau-diere and my hon. friend from Marshfield—that there could be any possibility that a Franchise Bill could be framed which would have recognized the principle of universal suffrage in Canada. I wish to remind my hon. friend of what has been brought to our notice by my hon. friend at my right (Mr. Howlan) that he was compelled, for the protection of his province, in 1874 to stand up against his own Liberal Government which proposed not only to disfranchise his people utterly (Oh, Oh!) yes, utterly, on the principle of universal suffrage, but to require that every man should own a certain portion of real estate before he could be a voter at all—not admitting taxpayers, or farmers' sons, or many of those who are entitled to vote under this illiberal Tory measure.

HON. MR. SCOTT—It was only a temporary bill.

HON. MR. PLUMB—I do not care whether it was temporary or not. My

hon. friend is quite mistaken; it was intended to affect the franchise of Prince Edward Island and to prevent a large portion of its population, who had up to that time enjoyed the suffrage, from voting in elections for the Dominion Parliament, and my hon. friend from Marshfield is too candid to dispute for one moment the position I am taking.

HON. MR. SCOTT—He will explain it.

HON. MR. PLUMB—It will require a great deal of ingenuity to explain it away. It is one thing to explain, and another thing to explain away. My hon. friend will see that the most tender regard has been paid to the voters of Prince Edward Island. Every man who is entitled to vote will continue to possess the franchise. Nobody is disfranchised, and not only that, but there are men absolutely admitted to the franchise—sons of fishermen and farmers' sons. But my hon. friend says he objects, on the other hand, to the Indians voting. All his friends are making the same objection; they are objecting to the enlargement of the franchise on the one side, and they are representing it as being too restrictive on the other. It is impossible to please the hon. gentleman and get at any common point upon which we can agree. My hon. friend from DeLanau-diere, whom I know to be Conservative of Conservatives, has stated that there is universal dissatisfaction against this franchise because it is too liberal and sweeping. Other gentlemen of his way of thinking say the same thing, and yet he advocates that there shall be a more sweeping measure still—in fact that the principle of universal suffrage which, in a franchise Bill like this, once admitted as a general principle, must affect the whole principle of the Bill and must be carried through all the provinces—my hon. friend who is so logical usually, has actually committed himself to the principle of universal suffrage. Well, he is quite welcome to do so but I wish to have one thing understood, that is, that this conservative Senate in 1874 saved the franchise of Prince Edward Island. This conservative Senate proposes now to agree with the proposition of the House of Commons, by which all the voters who are registered in Prince Edward Island shall still have