

not be urged at the present time, and why it should be left until next session. I hold that this Franchise Bill is one of sufficient importance as to deserve more than a small part of the session, it should take almost the whole of one session in order that we might frame a good Bill. I want to see a Bill framed which will be satisfactory to both sides of the House; I want to see a Bill framed that will, if possible, give to every man in this country, who is entitled to it, the privilege of voting. I want to see a Bill framed which shall not be expensive to the Dominion as a whole, and which shall not be too expensive, or not at all expensive, to members who seek election to this House. There are plenty of expenses without the expense of that kind. I may say that I would be very glad if we could have a Bill of that kind to replace the measure now in existence.

Mr. FROST. I have been listening with a good deal of interest to the discussion on the Franchise Act. I have heard a great deal about the tariff, about the Superannuation Bill, about the Alien Labour Bill, and a number of other Bills which are coming down during the present session, but I do not know, apart from the tariff measure, of any Bill that is more important than the Bill for the repeal of the Dominion Franchise Act. Hon. gentlemen opposite tell us that there is not time during this session to study the present Bill that has been brought in by the Solicitor General. I can tell hon. gentlemen that the present Bill is practically a renewal of the former system of using the voters' lists of the various provinces, and it does not require so much study as they imagine. We have been studying the present Dominion Franchise Act for the last twelve years, and it has met with the universal condemnation of the people of this country. Every man who knows anything about the Franchise Act, knows that it was framed for the purpose of giving the Conservative party an advantage in the elections, and we know it has worked in that direction in every election since it was framed. The difference between the two Bills is practically this: We want to return again to the old, simple fashion of registering votes in fairness and equity, as against the present Dominion franchise with all its cumbrousness, and all its costliness, and all its many obnoxious features, which we have discovered during those twelve years it has been in existence. We know that the Confederation Act simply gave the privilege of using the provincial voters' lists, and for seventeen or eighteen years these lists were used to the general satisfaction of the whole country. There was no fault found with these lists, and it was not until the present Act was brought in that we heard anything against the old system of taking votes. Now the hon. gentlemen opposite know that the present Franchise Act did give them a decided advan-

tage; and while in their Act, the revision was to take place every year, we know for a fact that owing to its costliness, which surprised the whole country, we have only had four revisions in the twelve years. Consequently we find that in taking a vote at a Dominion election we practically disfranchise thousands of young men throughout the whole country, and not only both political parties but all concerned in taking the vote, have been obliged to go to great expense in bringing thousands of people to the polls from all over the country, as has already been stated this evening by the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Calvert). We have been obliged to see thousands of our neighbours who were entitled to vote, prevented from doing so because their names were not on the list. Again, we know that the Government took the revision of these lists entirely into their own hands; not only the revision of the lists, but their publication and their printing. Formerly the printing of the lists was done in newspaper offices, but after the Government Printing Bureau was established, they were printed here. I know for a fact that there have been scores of men who supposed in all fairness that their names were on the list, but who found to their dismay when they came to vote, that their names were not there at all, although their names had been presented to the revising officer by their associations. Now I have heard it stated to-night that it would require a great deal of time to consider this Bill; and one of the objections to taking it up is that the tariff is in the way, and that the tariff should be brought down first. Well, we have now an announcement that the tariff is coming down very soon, and it is coming down at a period not later in the session than has been the case in other sessions, and earlier than in some previous sessions. But there are some reasons why the tariff should be delayed, and this no one knows better than hon. gentlemen opposite. After the Government came into power in July, how much time have they had to discover the minds of the people with regard to this question? A commission went through the country, and even to this day there are men still anxious to meet that commission, so great is the interest taken in that matter. The Government could not possibly think of bringing down their Budget any sooner than they have done, and I am surprised that they have been able to do so much within so short a period of time. I know that three years ago hon. gentlemen opposite when in power issued a commission respecting the tariff, which travelled over the country for nearly a year. What did the tariff revision amount to? In the end nearly everything which it was proposed to reform was immediately put back before Parliament prorogued. The hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) referred to some industries. I do not pro-