

in the province of Manitoba a man who is entitled to vote, whether his name is on the list or not, can come up and swear himself on at the poll? Why not do that? Because, forsooth, the answer is, this Parliament would then be taking a slight hand in fixing its own franchise; it would be putting its little finger to the machinery of fixing its own franchise, and such an outrage as that cannot be tolerated for a moment! In the face of what fell from the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, that the franchise in Prince Edward Island works well, what answer has he to the offer I make? He may say, you have a big city in Winnipeg. Well, except the big city. It is not more true in Prince Edward Island than it is in the rural districts of Manitoba that every man knows every other man. Manitoba has not a congested population. The rural districts of Manitoba are peopled by respectable farmers, just as are the rural districts of the North-west Territories and Prince Edward Island and Ontario. I have read some of their names to you. There are 165 of them who have been sworn to. If their names have been left off by carelessness, or by an infamous arrangement like sending the list to Emerson 100 miles away to be printed, and then coming back when it was altogether too late, let them have the same right as their brother electors in the North-west Territories and in Prince Edward Island, to swear that they have been residents of the province for two or three years and of the constituency for three months. The only objection to that is that it would be allowing this Dominion Parliament to put its little finger to the machinery that is to bring the electoral lists into force in Manitoba, and that would be such an outrage on the symmetry of our beautifully symmetrical Act, which has not a single principle in it except the principle of heterogeneity, so that it might be described as Dr. Johnson described higgledy-piggledy, as a conglomerated mass of heterogeneous matter.

Mr. HUGHES. I hope the Solicitor General will see the advisability of letting this clause stand. So far as I am personally concerned, I could not accept the provincial list of Ontario, but by a very slight amendment the provincial franchises might be made the basis of our list. Even though the Government do not see their way to have one uniform franchise from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but persist in adopting the franchises of the various provinces, I think in all fairness there should be some little concessions made, so as to provide for such names as have been pointed out by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) being placed on the list in some simple way. If that is done, this definition of "voters' list" would require some amendment. I would respectfully suggest that the Solicitor General allow the clause to stand.

Mr. DAVIN.

Mr. TAYLOR. Before the debate goes over, I want to refer to a statement which has been made by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries since the hon. leader of the Opposition has left the House. He made the statement that a bargain was made across the floor of the House that this Bill was to be passed to-night. I did not, nor did any one else on this side of the House, so understand it, and I do not think he can find in "Hansard" that there was any such agreement.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am glad the hon. gentleman has brought that matter up. By the well-known usage of the House it is customary for the leaders to make provisional agreements with reference to public Bills. During the debate on Friday night last the leader of the Opposition suggested that we should adjourn. The leader of the Government was not here, and as I was leading the House I consulted with the hon. leader of the Opposition. I told him that it was the desire of the leader of the Government that the division on the second reading should take place that night. He consulted with the hon. member for York, who sat beside him, and he said that he could not agree that it was possible to take a division that night, but he thought it could be taken on Tuesday. I said I would go and see the leader of the Government, and come back and if possible make an agreement. I came back, and the hon. leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for York and myself, acting for the leader of the Government, agreed that the division on the second reading would take place on Tuesday night, and that the Bill would be permitted to go through committee on Friday—at this sitting.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Go to or go through committee?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Go through committee.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am stating what took place—that the Bill would be allowed to go through committee to-night, so far as he was able to control the Opposition and advise them, and he would use his best efforts and exertions to that end. I could not ask him to say more than that. I communicated that statement to the leader of the Government, and on that agreement we consented to postpone the division until the following Tuesday night. Hon. gentlemen can carry that out or not. I submitted it to the hon. leader of the Opposition as what took place at that time.

Mr. TAYLOR. Was it made across the floor of the House?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It was not made openly in