

curred by the candidates and their friends in bringing to the polls those voters who do not reside in the locality where they have a right to vote. But there are further disadvantages which I may merely mention here. Those voters who come from outside to vote are mostly always the cause of controverted election trials being brought about and of elections being voided. As every hon. gentleman knows, one of the most heavy burdens which the candidates and their friends have to bear is the paying of the travelling expenses of those who come from a distance. Now, those expenditures are unlawful; they make the candidate liable to have his election contested and should the trial of the election petition take place, his election may be voided. I am sure the Bill now under consideration would not adequately meet the views of the voters in the province of Quebec, should it not include a clause providing for residential voting. In my opinion, Sir, notwithstanding all what the hon. gentlemen opposite may say to the contrary, it would be far preferable for us to revert to the former state of things and to use the provincial lists. The voters of this country will then be able to express their opinion in the same manner as when voting at a provincial election. The electors will make their voice heard as easily then as they do now; they will be able to give expression to their views by means of the provincial lists in a more satisfactory manner than they can do through the federal lists now in use. This change would save the country and those who concern themselves with the preparation of those voters' lists all the expenditure, and trouble attendant upon the revision of the Dominion voters' lists, under the present system.

Mr. CHAUVIN. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, in listening to the remarks just fallen from the hon. member for Maskinongé (Mr. Legris), I noticed that while attacking the Franchise Act, he did not say anything in vindication of the Bill now under our consideration. He even went so far as to say that there were deficiencies in the Bill introduced by the hon. Solicitor General, and among other amendments, he did suggest residential voting. Now, Sir, we are not called upon to vindicate the franchise law of 1885, and I may tell the hon. gentlemen opposite that we are all opposed to that law remaining in force any longer, as it stands now. For my part, I say without hesitation, that were I asked to vote in favour of the law remaining in force, as it stands now, I would vote against it. But we have proposed an amendment which points out the main objectionable feature of the Bill introduced by the hon. Solicitor General. As to the matter of expenditure, I quite coincide with the hon. member for Maskinongé. I admit that the machinery of the Act of 1885 is too expensive, as stated in the amendment. But I would have liked the

Government to introduce a Bill which, while reducing the large public expenditure necessitated by the machinery of the Act, would have provided for the control of Parliament over the franchise under which its members are elected. Now, Sir, if we oppose this Bill, it is because this very principle is infringed. We hold that this Parliament is an independent body, superior to the provinces. The provincial legislatures enjoy but delegated powers, which were conferred on them by the Imperial Parliament. At any rate, the Dominion Parliament, so far as its origin and dignity are concerned, is above the provincial legislatures, and it seems desirable that it should have, at least, the control of the voters' lists on which its members are elected. Every parliament is vested with that power. Why, then, should the Dominion Parliament, which is above the provincial legislatures, and is an independent body, not possess the right of electing its own members? Such is the principle for which we are now battling, and such is the reason why we oppose the present Bill, which ignores that principle. If the hon. Solicitor General is willing to insert in his Bill a clause providing for the control of the Dominion Parliament over the voters' lists, let him make a proposition to that effect, and I make bold to tell him that he will have the support of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, or, at least, I give him my word that I will support the Bill. But Parliament should not divest itself of its control over the lists on which the members of this House are elected.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). (Translation.) The hon. gentleman will perhaps allow me to interrupt him a moment. Would the hon. gentleman point out to us what means we should take, in his opinion, in order to exercise that control?

Mr. CHAUVIN. (Translation.) I do not think either the member for Terrebonne, or any other hon. gentleman, is called upon to legislate here instead of the hon. gentlemen opposite—

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. (Translation.) The hon. gentleman wants concessions, and I was just asking him what he wants.

Mr. CHAUVIN. (Translation.) Those concessions, I propose to ask them from the Solicitor General when the House is sitting in Committee of the Whole, and when this Bill is under their consideration I will then propose that this Bill be so modified as to secure to Parliament the exclusive control of the lists on which members of this House are elected. I would certainly endorse this measure, were it enacted that Parliament shall have control over the lists on which members of the House of Commons are elected; and such is, to my mind, the main objectionable feature of this Bill.