

getting on now to the witching hour of night ; it is twenty minutes past eleven.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. And you agreed to put this Bill through committee this session of the House.

Mr. **DAVIN**. Yes ; does my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) remember the way you and your friends went on in 1885 ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am not talking about that ; I am talking about the solemn agreement made across the floor of this House.

Mr. **DAVIN**. Yes, and in 1885, you passed the second reading of the Franchise Act, and you went on arguing and discussing and jabbing for three months in committee.

Mr. **QUINN**. Where is the Minister of the Interior at the witching hour of night ?

Mr. **DAVIN**. I have been so devoted to politics now for many years that I forget these descriptive allusions of Byron to scenes of revelry. But I think it will be found in Childe Harold, and that they be- seem the terpsichorean movements of our friend the Minister of the Interior. Any way, it was before the battle of Waterloo, and as described in Childe Harold, that ball took place in the city of Brussels ; but I think the ball to-night may be in commemoration of a battle quite as disastrous to the young Napoleon of the Liberal party as was the ball at Brussels to the great Napoleon of history. The ball at Brussels described by Childe Harold was previous to the defeat of Napoleon, but this ball to-night is subsequent to defeat of the young Napoleon, the Minister of the Interior.

Mr. **LaRIVIERE**. The Duke of Yukon.

Mr. **DAVIN**. My hon. friend (Mr. La-Rivière) suggests the Duke of Yukon, but I do not think that just now there are any strawberry leaves for the Duke of Yukon ; the spring frost has nipped the strawberry leaves in the bud.

Mr. **BENNETT**. This is the winter of their discontent.

Mr. **DAVIN**. Yes, it is their winter—

Mr. **TALBOT**. That is all very interesting.

Mr. **DAVIN**. Not half so interesting as the beautiful countenance of my hon. friend from Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot).

Mr. **TALBOT**. Do you think so ?

Mr. **DAVIN**. I can assure my hon. friend (Mr. Talbot) that nothing gives me so much pleasure as when he interrupts me. I turn around and I look at him and I remember the words of the poet Keats :

- A thing of beauty is a joy for ever,
- Its loveliness increases, it will never
- Pass into nothingness, but still will keep
- A bower quiet for us and a sleep
- Full of sweet dreams and health and quiet
- breathing.

Every time he interrupts me he affords me an æsthetic joy.

Mr. **TALBOT**. And you are quite an æsthetic man.

Mr. **DAVIN**. Now, Sir, I will be able to show the Solicitor General, and I will be able to show my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, that the "Free Press" which is supporting them at the present moment, and has been supporting them for a couple of years past, and has always been a Liberal Organ ; the "Free Press," of Winnipeg has denounced the provincial election lists as an outrage upon justice ; an outrage, in that it completely throws into the hands of a partisan government the manipulation of the making of the voters' lists, so that in every constituency they can gouge the electorate, and make it a certainty that their partisan men shall be returned. In fact I have heard it said by an independent man in Winnipeg, that in the last election Greenway would not have allowed a Conservative to be elected were it not, in the first place that it would have been so patent that rascality had been perpetrated, and in the next place, that if all Liberals were returned he would have a more dangerous opposition than if he had allowed six or seven Conservatives to come in, and so he permitted, for the sake of appearance, a few conservatives to get into the legislature. Is it to be expected for one moment that whether we are in the committee stage of a Bill or not and when it comes to a question of allowing Dominion members of Parliament for Manitoba to be elected under such an outrage of justice, we should sit 'sub silentio' and allow such a Bill to pass without discussion. I may have no objections to accepting the voters' lists of the various provinces as a basis of the franchise, but to accept them without any safeguard or qualification, and to allow under this Bill six or seven members from Manitoba to be forced into this House without having a majority of the electorate behind them ; pushed through the doors of this free Parliament by the foul hand of corruption ; a mockery to this free Parliament ; an outrage on everything like justice. Before we will tolerate any such thing as that, we will fight and fight ; that is my feeling. I owe it to Manitoba and the west. I will certainly fight hard rather than sit tamely by and allow such a thing as that to happen ; and my hon. and learned friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries should fight by my side, because in what he said about the local franchise in Prince Edward Island he implied that if the local franchise in any province is not fair, he did not want it, and if it did not work well he did not want it. He says that in the province of Prince Edward Island it works well, and I believe it does, because the same thing works well with us. Why not put in a clause providing that