

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorancy). I congratulate the hon. gentleman upon withdrawing some sections of the Bill, especially that section which has reference more particularly to the disfranchisement of the members of the militia, those who are serving now in Africa and the North-west Mounted Police. I am sure, Sir, we are all interested in having a good election law; we are interested from a general standpoint in having elections carried on in as pure a manner as possible, but I take it that every man in this House is personally interested in securing an honest vote from the electorate of this country. It is, unhappily, well known that elections nowadays cost a good deal of money—as one of my hon. friends on the other side so aptly put it, elections are not made with prayers. The object of the several amendments of which I have given notice, and which are printed in the Votes and Proceedings of this day, have these results in view, to banish corruption as far as it can be banished, and to make elections as pure as they can be made. Now, I think that the Bill before the House is a step in the right direction; but it seems to me, on the other hand, there are some parts that could be improved or supplemented by provisions taken from the Imperial statute, and also, I may say, from a statute passed in the province of Quebec in 1895. I may explain that no man gave me more help in passing that Bill through the Quebec legislature than my hon. and learned friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick). One good turn deserves another, we know; and, I think that, as I am on this side of the House as he was in 1895 in the local legislature, I can extend to him the right hand of fellowship and help him to make this Bill as perfect a Bill as possible. In a very few words, I may outline the general purpose of the amendments of which I have given notice, because I think it is only fair that the House should know exactly what my object is, and a few remarks from me will enable the House to come to a right understanding of what I suggest. First, I endeavour by certain amendments to preserve, as far as possible the sanctity of the ballot. We have heard a good deal of that recently, but I take it that the provisions of the Bill are not quite strict enough to preserve the sanctity of the ballot in the way it is understood. I propose to ask the House to amend the Bill so as to render it more difficult to forge, alter, or, as the parlance is now, to 'switch' ballots. There is another question also of deep interest to those who have seats in this House and who intend to go again before the electors, and that is the preservation of good order during the elections. There is nothing so conducive to immorality in elections as the use of intoxicating liquor during the time of an election. It is well known that, unfortunately, in some parts of the country,

and probably in most parts, intoxicating liquor plays an all-important or great part in procuring votes or in having men vote, not as their conscience dictates to them, but from other motives than those which should sway them. I propose stringent measures to prevent disorder and intoxication and illegal and immoderate use of liquor during election time, especially on the day previous to the election, and on the day of election. These provisions are taken from the Quebec Act, and I think in the last general elections in 1897 they worked out very fairly. Another point in which I propose to ask the House to amend the Bill is this: While there is no doubt that the man who bribes is guilty of a grievous offence and should be punished, I take it that the man who allows himself to be bribed and especially the man who wants to be bribed is guilty of a greater offence. For instance, the man who waits around until four o'clock in the afternoon, saying: I will not go to the polls unless I get something, should be punished more severely than the man who holds out a bribe. It is well known now that elections have grown so expensive that certain parties vote not because they think one party better than the other, but simply because they are holding themselves out to be bought like so many cattle. This has got to be an abuse—I may call it a crime—which calls for the strictest measures; and if we can put down this kind of thing, we shall not only make elections cheaper, but also banish from our electoral contests much of the corruption which unfortunately exists to-day. It is my object to so amend the law as to punish the man who accepts the bribe, not only the man who accepts money, but the man who accepts drinks, the man who accepts refreshments, the man who holds himself out to the candidate as a tempter, and without whom the candidate sometimes cannot get along. There are abuses in this way, of which, I have no doubt, many of my hon. friends are aware. For instance, on certain days, especially on nomination day and polling day, a great number of electors will hang around the place where the candidate is dining until they are invited to have part of the refreshments that are going. And, if one of these men does not get the invitation he is looking for, he goes away disgruntled, and in many cases, votes for the other candidate. It is this man I want to punish, as well as the man who holds out an inducement to another to vote against the dictates of his conscience.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You want to punish a man for being thirsty?

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes, on election day. He should have a good drink of water before he comes to the election.

Then, as to the matter of election expenses, the keeping of the accounts; I will explain the general purview of the amend-

Mr. FITZPATRICK.