

as I myself might do if in Lower Canada it was enacted that no one should have a right to vote except he could speak and write in the French language. I would consider that exceedingly unfair towards the people who speak my own language, and I would be perhaps quite as indignant as the hon. gentleman. That is a remote contingency, and I only mention it incidentally; it is not at all likely to occur; but suppose female suffrage introduced in any province what would the hon. gentleman with his strong feeling on the subject think? Why of course he would feel strongly and express himself strongly on that point, and I rejoice with him that that clause was not persevered in as it appeared in the original Bill, but I mention it to show that although strong reasons may not exist at present the danger if not immediate may be pending.

My hon. friend from the city of Halifax spoke upon the subject of the Bill, and as he always does spoke with a great deal of acuteness and entered very fully into some points. My hon. friend, is as I may say, the analyst of the Opposition. His power of analysis is very great, and his observation is quick, and he has on various occasions rendered essential services not merely in Government measures but in measures introduced by private members in analyzing bills that were submitted here and discovering defects that existed. It is a very important function of the Opposition, no doubt, to criticise every measure, and it is a very important thing to have men capable of doing so. But when my hon. friend, if he will permit me to call him so, comes to deal with Government measures he reminds one very much of a naturalist who has a new creature—some new insect to examine. He places it in a strong light under a powerful microscope, and he discovers everything in connection with it and is able to, and does, examine it with the most minute care. That being the case, my hon. friend possessing the power and the ability to deal with matters in that way, I think it is saying a great deal for this Bill that he was able to urge so little against it. He had very little to say on the subject. He left the bill almost untouched except upon one point—I mean any material point—and on that point I venture to say he was mistaken. His reference was to the government of the

United States. It is true as he says that the United States have adopted the franchise in several states instead of making a uniform franchise for the election of all federal officers, but he fails, I think, to perceive the difference between this Dominion and the United States. Canada does not stand in the same relation to the provinces as the federal government of the United States does to the several states. There the rights are delegated by the states to the Central Government: under our constitution the converse of the proposition is true—the Crown with us is supreme, and power not delegated remains with the Dominion. Therefore the argument he would draw from the United States, practice I think is not well-founded seeing the condition of things is different. The subject of this Bill has now been for a long time before the public. There has been great divergence of opinion as to what the franchise should be, and for the last eight weeks or more the measure has occupied the time of the Commons. There was “a sound of revelry by night,” and my hon. friend from Ottawa would be disposed to say, not that “music arose with its voluptuous swell,” but with its “patriotic swell.” He believes the whole thing was a patriotic effort. Whatever was patriotic in it, I think, was shared by those who supported, as well as those who opposed, the measure. A struggle, in which physical endurance was the prominent feature, has been played out to the close. It was not, I thought, a very edifying spectacle, but I suppose it may have its uses as both parties have resorted to the expedient at different times. There were intervals, however, in which the voice of reason was heard, and much light thrown upon the subject. I am, I confess, unable to see that a perfectly just franchise, scientifically accurate, is attainable; the most that can be hoped for is an approximate estimate of social value on the basis of property, and possibly educated intelligence. So far as I am capable of judging I believe that the franchise provided for in the Bill before us, if not theoretically perfect, will be found suitable to the condition of things throughout the Dominion at large, and embrace substantially all to whom the right should be entrusted. But this branch of the Bill has been fully and