

supporters, he accused hon. gentlemen on this side of taking a somersault on this question, and thus sought to prepare the House for the great somersault which he expects his own followers to take in the next few days.

It is not my intention to devote many minutes in replying to the hon. gentleman, because possibly the hon. gentleman would disdain a reply from an humble member like myself and also because there was not much to reply to in the hon. gentleman's remarks. Coming, however, as I do, from the province of Manitoba, that province whose legislation has created a good deal of acrimonious discussion in this House and throughout the country in the past few years, I desire to enter my protest against the adoption of this Franchise Bill, first, because I object to the principle involved of having the control of the franchise surrendered by this Parliament and delegated to the provinces, and secondly, because the Manitoba Franchise Act, which is intended to substitute for this law, so far as the election of members from that province is concerned, is a most iniquitous Act and rightly termed so by the hon. leader of the Opposition. It is an act which is administered in a most hostile spirit to the Conservative opposition in that province. It certainly brings disgrace and discredit on those who were instrumental in placing it upon the Statute-book of the province. That Franchise Act is one, which, when we look at the manner in which the lists have been compiled through its operation, is certainly deserving of our severest condemnation. Any person living in that province and being aware of the character of the lists that have been prepared and of the character of many of those registration clerks, appointees of the Liberal Government, some of whom have had to flee their country for their country's good, may be pardoned if he uses rather strong expressions in condemnation of the same. Now, it is only necessary for me to tell you that at the time that Act was under discussion in the Manitoba legislature, that old time Liberal, Mr. Fisher, formerly president of the Provincial Liberal Association and for many years past holding a seat in the legislature, condemned it in unmeasured terms. He declared this Act to be, to use the time-honoured phrase of his, a monstrosity of monstrosities, and said that if everything were true that had been said against the present Dominion Franchise Act, it was still a king compared to the Greenway Act. When I also bring to your memory the fact that the Toronto "Globe," the mouthpiece and family bible of hon. gentlemen opposite, also condemned the Act, and warned the provincial Liberals that in enacting such legislation they were but placing a stumbling-block in the way of the Liberals in this Dominion Parliament who were agitating against the Dominion Franchise Act, you can form some idea of the iniquitous char-

acter of that Act when it met with such condemnation from those particular sources. Now, in the few remarks it is my intention to address to this House, I do not intend to discuss the question as affecting any other province, but purely from a Manitoba standpoint. In doing so it will be necessary for me to briefly review the history of the present Manitoba Franchise Act. In the days of the Norquay Administration, the Act provided that the lists should be compiled by officers termed enumerators, who were to be, as far as possible, municipal clerks. Let me read a clause of the Act :

An enumerator appointed under this Act shall be a clerk of a municipality lying wholly within the limits of the electoral division in which he is to act, or, in case of refusal, neglect, inability or other reason, such other person as the Lieutenant-Governor in council may select.

The Liberal Opposition, led by Mr. Greenway, opposed that Act and especially that clause, taking the ground that in all cases the lists should be prepared by municipal clerks, and the municipal lists should be the proper lists used in the election. Mr. Greenway, in opposing the Act, said :

He (Mr. Greenway) was in favour of having the voters' lists prepared by municipal clerks, and maintained that this could be easily done, as the greater part of the work was complete when the lists for municipal elections were prepared. * * * He objected to the government taking in themselves the appointment of enumerators. They might appoint partisans, who might put obstacles in the way in order to exclude from the lists names to which they objected. The greatest freedom should be allowed, and there should not be any taint of suspicion as to the manner in which the lists were prepared. * * * If a partisan enumerator were appointed, how easy it would be for him to ignore certain information which he might obtain in reference to certain individuals whom he might wish to exclude.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am free to admit that there was a certain amount of force in the objections offered to that clause by Mr. Greenway. But with how much greater force does that objection apply to his own Act of the present day? He objected to the appointment of enumerators. But these are the officers he has to-day, only he calls them registration clerks. To show what was the opinion of the Liberals in that province, I will read a resolution moved by Mr. Martin, a gentleman whom members of this House have heard of, a gentleman to whom, whatever may be said concerning him, gentlemen opposite owe their positions to-day, though they have treated him very cavalierly and used him very ungratefully, tossing him aside like an old glove, after having used him for their own purposes, and now he is being looked after by his old opponents, the Canadian Pacific Railway, that he fought for so many years. Mr. Martin, on the third reading of the Bill, moved :

That the said Bill be not read a third time, but that it be recommitted to a Committee of the