

liberties of the people of America were encroachments made by a Parliament subservient to the sovereign power—a subserviency obtained by all sorts of illicit means, and surely we cannot but protest strongly against the introduction of the thin end of the wedge in this country. Lord Chatham says, “The spirit which now resists taxation in America is the same spirit which in England formerly opposed the loans, benevolences, and ship money.” I hope and believe that that same spirit exists among the people of Prince Edward Island this day, and long may it continue there. Some hon. gentlemen have spoken of how we would act if this were a question of the liberties of the provinces, and if it were a question affecting a province, depriving it of any rights. In that I see the same identical disregard for the liberties of the people which lost to our British ancestors those liberties which they inherited from their Anglo-Saxon forefathers. I say this argument is altogether inconsistent with the preservation of our municipal and provincial institutions. Some reference has been made to the action of this House some ten years ago—on an occasion in some respects similar—and I think some little misapprehension prevails in regard to it. That was not an attempt at any permanent encroachment upon the liberties of the people of Prince Edward Island; it was a temporary arrangement proposed until the Local Government, too, should establish registration courts there which up to that time had no existence. It need not necessarily have occupied more than a year at the outside. The Local Legislature was not in session, and nine or ten months must necessarily have elapsed before it could have framed and passed a measure to establish registration courts. During that time the liberties of the people would have been in abeyance, and it is for that very reason that I opposed the bill, and used my very best influence to prevent it from becoming law, and successfully. And I did so on this principle, that if once you allow the abrogation of your liberties or of any privileges you possess, by any power whatsoever, you abandon the tenure on which they are held. It is that very carelessness that leads to the loss of liberty. Any one who will take the trouble to read up this question will

find that it is by that very means, adopted by tyrannical sovereigns, in other countries besides our own, that the rights of the people have been invaded. When once our liberties are encroached on it is difficult to re-establish them. Let anyone take up the history of the Netherlands and read the struggle which the people of that region went through in order to obtain their municipal privileges; let them study the history of that country under Philip II., and observe how the privileges of the people were abrogated by that sovereign. Let them read the history of England and see how in the days of the Stuarts our municipal liberties were often infringed upon, abrogated and forfeited to the Crown, and new franchises granted, granted not to those who held them before, but to others who were known to be subservient to the Royal interests. These are the dangers which we have to contend against. Of course, we here in Canada do not anticipate such extreme dangers as that; but are there no other dangers that the dominant party in Canada should by means of this bill, and through such bills as have passed through Parliament, become a permanent majority, and thus an oligarchy would become established in this Dominion of ours? Is there any danger of that in this Dominion? If hon. gentlemen think not, let them pass this bill; but I hope there is sufficient independence in this House yet to save the franchise for the people of Prince Edward Island. I will not detain the House any further by any unnecessary remarks.

The House divided on the amendment, which was lost on the following division:

CONTENTS:

Hon. Messrs.

Baillargeon,	O'Donohoe,
Bellerose,	Paquet,
Guévremont,	Pelletier,
Haythorne,	Power,
Howlan,	Scott,
Leonard,	Stevens,
McClellan,	Wark.—15.
McInnes,	

NON-CONTENTS:

Hon. Messrs.

Allan,	McKindsey,
Bolduc,	McMillan,
Boucherville de,	Macdonald,
Campbell (Sir Alex.)	MacInnes,