

he can hardly expect that this House will stultify themselves, and incorporate a principle in that Bill, which will lead to its being wholly recast, but that he wishes simply to record his opinions upon it, and the opinions of gentlemen who may be disposed to vote with him ; but while I am fully disposed to protect, and should have stood by his side in protecting, the interests of any persons who are proposed to be disfranchised, I shall certainly not follow him so far as prospectively to legislate for people who have no franchise now, but who may hereafter be placed in the same position as those who have, because if that principle were admitted it would be impossible for Parliament to alter any franchise if it were once given.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I wish to explain the vote which I am about to give on this amendment. If I am not mistaken the franchise in Prince Edward Island is universal suffrage. To that franchise, as I said before, I am quite opposed, but in this instance it is proposed to give to that province the franchise which she enjoys to-day. As I stated at a former stage of this Bill, we have in this Dominion many provinces, and the fairest way would have been to have left to each province its own franchise. Therefore, I am bound to give my vote in support of the amendment, and though the hon. gentleman from Amherst (Mr. Dickey) took exception to it on account of the difficulty in the way of going on with the Bill, I do not believe that it could be called a valid objection, because this Bill only reached us two or three days ago, and we must take our time to legislate in a proper way. If it requires one day more to put the Bill in a proper shape, we should take that time and mature the measure. Therefore, I do not consider that it is a strong argument against the amendment. If this House, which is supposed to be more conservative than the popular branch, would consider a little the opinion expressed by the Minister of Justice himself when he stated the other day that his own idea was to leave to each province its own franchise, I suppose it would not be difficult for this House to vote in that direction.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—My hon. friend must pardon me if I correct

HON. MR. DICKEY.

him. I said that that was my first thought until I heard further, and then I willingly gave way.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I suppose with one or two hours' work we could have the Bill recast so as to put it in a shape which would satisfy the whole of the people throughout the Dominion, but as it is now it will cause dissatisfaction. It changes the franchise in every province of the Dominion, and therefore the best way would be to recast the Bill now. I will support the amendment for the reason I have given.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—I refrained from saying anything on this Bill at the second reading, because the Minister of Justice was anxious that the House should come to a vote at that particular sitting and I supposed that an opportunity would be afforded to discuss the measure at a later stage. We find ourselves face to face with a franchise Bill prepared by the House of Commons, whom it more particularly concerned, and anything which we might say on the subject here has already been stated very fully there. I was somewhat surprised at the opposition that arose to this Bill. It was not for a moment pretended that the Government had no power to introduce a Bill of this kind ; on the contrary, it has been admitted by my hon. friend from DeSalaberry in this House that the Government have that power. The Bill has been introduced, and I think I may say, without exaggeration, that it has been pretty freely discussed, and the opinions of gentlemen whom it more immediately concerns are well understood. I am surprised that the leader of the Opposition in this House, instead of allowing the bill to go to committee to be considered and modified, moved the six months' hoist, and I am surprised that my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island should have assisted him, because if that vote had been carried it would have been impossible to amend the bill.

HON. MR. PELLETIER—There would have been no necessity to amend it.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—My hon. friend who proposes this amendment asks this