

are very tenacious of their rights in that direction. There is no privilege of right that they cherish so dearly as the right of exercising this franchise."

But notwithstanding that they so highly prize and cherish that right, this hon. gentleman seems willing to sacrifice it for the paltry gain of a few dollars out of the Dominion treasury for the construction of voters' lists in Prince Edward Island. The hon. gentleman then proceeds to pass judgment on fellow members. He tells us of an outrage that was sought to be perpetrated upon Prince Edward Island by an Act passed in 1874, which he says deserved condemnation because it sought to apply a different rule to Prince Edward Island from that applied to the other Provinces, and he says that at that time the hon. First Minister, to his honor and credit, stood up and defended the rights of the people of Prince Edward Island. Does the hon. First Minister stand up to-day to defend the rights of Prince Edward Island in the same sense? And what has the hon. member for Prince to say, who then condemned what he is asking to have done now? The hon. gentleman made an unprovoked attack on the hon. member for Prince (Mr. Yeo) who sits near me, and endeavored to arouse religious prejudices against that hon. gentleman, who has done nothing to provoke such an attack, who has deservedly obtained the respect of both sides of this House, and who during his long parliamentary career has proved himself a strong and true friend of the Province from which he comes. The hon. gentleman then proceeds to give credit to an hon. Senator who, he said, in 1874 stood up nobly in defiance of his party in defence of the rights of Prince Edward Island. But what does the hon. member for Prince do? Is he standing up in defence of the liberties that are held dear by the people of Prince Edward Island? No; he is supporting hon. gentlemen who are seeking to oppress and tyrannise over the people of Prince Edward Island. The hon. gentleman then says:

"What will hon. gentlemen opposite say to that? How does it correspond with their idea of provincial rights, that this Parliament, that the Government of 1874, led by the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie), should, by an Act of Parliament, endeavor to coerce Prince Edward Island into the expenditure of a large amount of money in the preparation of voters' lists to return members to this Parliament?"

Does not this Bill coerce every Province in the Dominion into the expenditure of a large amount of money in the preparation of voters' lists? The hon. gentleman can condemn the Act of 1874, which coerced only one Province, which placed one Province in the same position as the others with regard to the expense of preparing but one set of voters' lists, but with strange inconsistency he can support this measure which coerces every Province. The hon. gentleman, then speaking of the revising barrister clause which was in force in Prince Edward Island, and which was similar to the Bill now before us, said:

"The people tried it for two or three years; it worked well enough, but it cost a large amount of money; it was too expensive a plaything for them and they repealed it."

Will not this system be an expensive one as well? Will it not prove too expensive to the people of Prince Edward Island? Will they not seek to have it repealed? The present Bill will impose restrictions and penalties upon the people of Prince Edward Island far in excess of any which the Government measure in 1874 imposed, and which the hon. member for Prince Edward Island so strongly condemns. At the close the hon. gentleman becomes pathetic, having spoken so long in defence of this measure, he is afraid to see it applied to his own Province. He said: "I hope that the House will support the amendment of my hon. friend and exclude Prince Edward Island from the operation of this clause." (The disfranchising clause.) He then whispered across the floor to the Government: "We think it only proper that this Parliament should have the control of its own electorate;" but he added:

"We think that Prince Edward Island, under its peculiar circumstances, being apart, almost from the rest of the Dominion, shut out for a large portion of the year from the mainland by almost impassable barriers of ice. Having no floating population, being pretty well filled up, there would be no danger at all in continuing to it the manhood suffrage so long enjoyed by its people. While I favor manhood suffrage in Prince Edward Island, I think it would hardly be right to apply to the whole country."

That is an example of—I will not say impertinence, but of an hon. gentleman extending his judgment too far. He thinks manhood suffrage is a good thing for Prince Edward Island. Let him think so and fight to maintain it there, but he has no right to express the opinion that it would not work well for the rest of the Dominion. The rest of the Dominion must have a Franchise Bill forced on it, whether it likes it or not, but Prince Edward Island must be allowed to have a law of its own. The hon. gentleman says his Province stands in the peculiar position because it is an island. Well, with all my heart, I shall support the amendment of the hon. member for King's (Mr. Macdonald), for several reasons. First, because it is right that the Provinces should have the right of saying to whom the franchise should be given. Then he moved that Prince Edward Island should have that right; but by-and-bye there will be two Prince Edward Islands. Merely judging the question from that geographical point, which the hon. member for Prince, P. E. I. (Mr. Hackett), raised I may say that the county of Prince Edward, Ontario, will, by-and-bye, when the Murray Canal will be dug, will be also an island, and be entitled on that ground to regulate its own franchise. The hon. gentleman has argued so far in favor of uniformity, in favor of this Parliament saying who shall be the electors. He says:

"I support this Bill again, because it very materially extends the franchise to the different people of the different Provinces; although it restricts it, in a small degree, in the Province from which I come."

He is willing that this Bill, because it extends the franchise in the other Provinces, should apply to Prince Edward Island, although it restricts the franchise there; but repenting of this adhesion to the principle of uniformity, he goes on to say:

"I hope this House will support the amendment of my hon. friend, which would retain the present franchise in Prince Edward Island, and then I think no harm can come of it."

Then he thinks no harm can come of it. Of course not, so long as Prince Edward Island is exempted. Leave me, he says, outside, and I will assist in passing the measure for the other Provinces. He adds:

"An exception made in favor of Prince Edward Island can scarcely be called a breach of uniformity, as that Island, on account of its insular position, is, for a large portion of the year, separate from the rest of the Dominion by the ice in the Straits of Northumberland. Therefore I trust that the Government will accede to the proposition of my hon. friend. I can assure those who will vote for this amendment that they will be long remembered and long revered and respected by the people of Prince Edward Island. There is no privilege they cherish so dearly as the privilege of exercising manhood suffrage. The man who will continue that privilege to them will be held in the highest esteem by them for all time; and the man who, as in the case of the Hon. David Laird, attempts to rob them of their franchise will always be execrated by them."

The First Minister has thus received his sentence. He has said the Government could not grant the request made by hon. gentlemen. What is the answer of the hon. gentleman? Those, he says, who deny that franchise will be eternally execrated by them. What about us? We will receive the unanimous support, no doubt, of the people of Prince Edward Island, for we will, taking the ground we do, support the proposition of the hon. member for King's (Mr. Macdonald); and doing so, we are to be held in eternal grateful remembrance, while those opposed to us will receive the eternal execration of the people of that Island. The hon. gentleman goes further; and this is the first time I remember having heard a man read his own death warrant. He supports the Government here; he is going to assist the Government in depriving the people of their rights and