

chise Act less expensive, and, in the second place, to remove certain inconsistencies, and to make it work more smoothly. We recognized then that the Act should be amended, and we recommend that course to-day as strongly as we did four years ago. The fact that we admit that does not justify the retrograde step which the Government proposes that the House should now take—a step which I am sure, if they adopt it, either their own Government or a Conservative Government will in the near future repeal in order to revert to a Dominion franchise, which is the true system and the only one that will work effectively. Take all the difficulties that have been pointed out in adopting the different franchises in the different provinces. In the province of Ontario you have one man one vote, while in the province of Quebec you have one man six votes. Why should you give property such an advantage as that in the province of Quebec, if you do not give property an equal advantage in the province of Ontario? Will somebody justify it? Will anybody say that the people of Quebec are more intelligent and have a right to have a wider franchise than the people of Ontario? No one can urge that; they shall all be treated exactly alike. Besides that, a very important consideration is this. Following logically upon the principle of one man one vote, one vote should have one value. But hon. gentlemen opposite have not proposed that that shall be the case. Of course, it could not be done now without a redistribution Act, which I presume hon. gentlemen opposite will not attempt, at any rate until the next census has been taken. But in the province of Ontario, where one man one vote prevails, they have not recognized the principle of representation according to population, which they advocated many years ago, and which logically and consistently should follow. For instance, they have cut up the riding of West York, and have added a large portion of its population to West Toronto. The result is that to-day there are probably 20,000 people in the west riding of York, and probably three times 20,000 in the west riding of Toronto. This is unfair and unjustifiable. We should have as nearly as possible a uniform franchise. It is true, the franchise of the present Dominion Act is not uniform, but it is very nearly so. It is not perfect. Its framers attempted to make a uniform franchise, but they found that they had to depart from it in some minor respects; but so far as the whole Dominion is concerned, the franchise is pretty nearly uniform, so that a man having a vote in one portion of the Dominion is entitled to a vote if he makes his residence in any other portion of the Dominion. In that respect it is a commendable act; but the proposed Bill utterly ignores that object. Now, Sir, it would be in my opinion a calamity to this country if this Bill for the adoption of the franchises

of the different provinces of the Dominion becomes the law of the land. It will not increase the intelligence of the members elected to this House; it will not raise the power and strength of this great central Parliament of Canada. It will be of no benefit whatever that I can see except that it may save the Dominion Parliament from the expenditure of a sum of money which would be necessary for the making of Dominion lists. It increases the expenses to the candidates, which to us is a more important matter. I say that if it does cause expense to the Dominion to obtain a Dominion list, the result completely justifies that expenditure. I do not believe the lists should be revised every year. That is an expense to the Government and both a labour and expense to the individual. But if a by-election is held, there might be some simple and inexpensive machinery for revising the list for the constituency in which that by-election is held, so that it will be held under an up-to-date voters' list. That is not proposed to be done by this Bill.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. How do you propose to do that?

Mr. WALLACE. I would propose to do it by a registration.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). How late would you have it?

Mr. WALLACE. I would have it after the vacancy occurred. I would allow sufficient time to elapse between the issue of the writ and the holding of the election to have a registration, so that there would be a list right up to date. But that is only one proposal. There are other methods by which an up-to-date list could be obtained, and I think it is important that it should be obtained. It has been stated that it is wrong to have a by-election on a list two or three years old. I quite agree with that. I say that wrong should be remedied, and it can be remedied cheaply and effectively in various ways. So I hope that this Parliament will not adopt a law which has nothing to recommend it except that it saves this Dominion of Canada the expenditure of a small sum of money, while it takes from the individual candidates a sum much larger than before, and where the expenditure should not be imposed upon the individual candidates. It is the duty of the state to provide as perfect a list as possible, and this duty should not devolve upon the candidates nor upon the political parties, more than to the smallest extent possible. For these reasons I am of opinion that this Bill should be read about this day six months.

Mr. LEGRIS. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I think it but right to extend my congratulations to the hon. gentlemen opposite, for the opposition they are offering the measure now before us. The House can bear witness to the idle opposition which the hon. gentle-