

from the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) to the Franchise Act of 1885, that it gave some of the bands of Indians the right to vote. But in Algoma and Muskoka, the Indians, both men and women were driven, almost like herds of cattle to the polls, and after the men had voted, they went to a separate room and exchanged garments with the squaws who then went to the polls, in their turn, and cast their votes, and this they did, under the control of the agents of the provincial government. Yet we are asked to hand over the control of our franchise to local governments, which could tolerate such proceedings.

There can be no question as to the truth of what I have stated, because it is a matter of record which nobody disputes. I could give the names of the gentlemen engaged in the work and of the employees of the provincial government who interested themselves in this matter. What we want is a fair and honest expression of the people's will, and in that view we should hesitate before adopting any system which is likely to give us the opposite. We should have uniformity in our franchise law, as far as possible. Pedantic uniformity we cannot, of course, always obtain, but at least there is a fair measure of uniformity in our present Dominion franchise law. What is proposed to be given us by the Bill before the House? We are asked to adopt a system, which will be conspicuous for its want of uniformity, and that alone, it seems to me, is sufficient to condemn it. Then as to the plea that elections are held upon old lists, under our present law, let me say in reply that in each province the lists are closed at a different period of the year. In Nova Scotia the assessments begin in November and are finished in July. In Ontario, they begin in April and May and are finished in December. In British Columbia, the provincial lists are made up just before the provincial election, and they are finally revised about the 30th of June. In Prince Edward Island the assessments are made out in December and finished about the 1st of May, and no Dominion officials are allowed to vote. In Manitoba the lists are made just before the provincial elections are held. In every province the lists close at different times. It will be seen, therefore, that it will be simply impossible to hold a Dominion election on lists on which everybody is inscribed who has the right to vote. The result would be that there would not be a single Dominion election which could be held on new lists. If the lists were new in Ontario, they would be old in some of the other provinces, so that it would be utterly impossible to have either general or by-elections on new lists throughout the Dominion. Let me quote from a very admirable work of Dr. Bourinot which gives us a little insight into the different franchises of the provinces. Any one looking over this work, must be

Mr. SPROULE.

struck with the differences in the franchises of the different provinces. Dr. Bourinot points out:

In the provinces every native-born Canadian or subject of Her Majesty, by birth or naturalization, who is a male person of the age of twenty-one years, not insane, not convicted of any crime, nor otherwise disqualified by any law, and who is duly entered on the official list of voters, can vote at legislative elections within their respective provinces, on the following conditions:—

In British Columbia.—For residents in the province for twelve months, and in an electoral district for two months of that time. Chinese and Indians have no votes. The system is, consequently, manhood suffrage.

In Manitoba.—Residents in the province for six months, and in the electoral division for one month before the issue of proclamation appointing the registration clerk therein. The system here is also manhood suffrage. Indians and persons of Indian blood, receiving an annuity or treaty money from the Crown, and all persons receiving salaries or fees from the Dominion or provincial governments to amount of \$350 and upwards, have no vote.

In Ontario.—Residents in the province for nine months before the time fixed by law for beginning to make the assessment roll in which they should be entered as qualified to vote, providing they are at the time actually residing in the municipal district in which they vote.

By the Ontario law to-day, lots of men who own large amounts of property cannot vote under the lists at present. Why? Because no matter how much property a man may own, he will have his name put down where his property is, but at the time of election he may be living in another polling subdivision and not be able to vote at all, because he must vote in the polling subdivision where he is living at the time the election is held. That is not fair to the electorate of Canada nor to the property-holders of Canada. Now, the Dominion franchise law is objected to on the principle of one man one vote. No doubt that principle has its advantages, and I candidly confess that I have often felt it was a disadvantage that we should be obliged to bring in the outside voter. I think, however, we could amend the law and still give a man a right to vote if he had property in the country, somewhere, so that he would not be deprived of that right when the elections came on.

In Quebec.—Owners or occupants of real estate valued in cities at \$300, or \$200 in other municipalities, or which yields a value of \$20 a year. Tenants paying an annual rental for real estate of at least \$30 in a city, and \$20 in any other municipal division. Also teachers under the control of school commissioners or trustees, rentières, or retired farmers, with a rental of at least \$100 yearly.

These all have the right to vote but they vote on a different principle from that laid down in Manitoba or Ontario or British Columbia.

In Nova Scotia.—Persons assessed on real property valued at \$150, or personal and real property together valued at \$300. Persons exempted