

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Well, there is no use of bandying a lie across the House.

Mr. **MARTIN**. Neither Mr. Stewart nor Mr. Smallwood was a secretary or president of a Liberal-Conservative Association.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I know whereof I am talking. Mr. McQuarrie was the president of the Prince County Association, and Mr. Smallwood has been the secretary for the last ten years.

Mr. **MARTIN**. So far as East Queen's, the district I represent is concerned, the hon. gentleman is mistaken.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am not mistaken. I ran in West Queen's myself, and Messrs. Smallwood and Stewart were the two revising officers—one for the east and one for the west. But we need not get down to parish politics.

An hon. **MEMBER**. Come out of them.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I was not in them, but I was trying to pull those out who got themselves in. I was arguing that the Government were not trying to gain any political advantage by adopting the provincial franchise. The provinces of the Dominion are not all under the control of the Dominion Government, though no doubt, with the growing intelligence of the people, they soon will be. But at present they are not. The great province of Quebec has been for years under Tory rule, British Columbia is under Conservative rule, and New Brunswick, I believe, has a composite government, neither Liberal nor Tory but a mixture of both, so that the Liberal party are not the ruling party in the different provinces, nor have they the control of the lists in those provinces. I say that the introduction and carriage of this Bill would involve the surrender of powers which the Government of the day now possess under the Dominion Franchise Act, with respect to the appointment of revising officers and all the other extraordinary and indefensible powers conferred upon the Government of the day. There are many good reasons for our adopting the provincial franchise. In the first place, because of its simplicity. The lists are made up by a class of officials who live in and understand the country and know the people. They are made up with little expense, and there is no danger of confusing the electors by having two different kinds of franchise. Everybody will admit that it is for the benefit of the electorate that the mode of voting and the means of ascertaining whether a man has a vote or not, should be made more simple, and if you have the one list which entitles a man to vote under the provincial franchise and under the Dominion franchise, you simplify the matter so that it

Mr. **DAVIES**.

comes within the knowledge of the meanest and poorest elector. He is not confused by being told: you are on the provincial franchise but not on the Dominion franchise. Again it is desirable to adopt this measure because it is a much more inexpensive plan. Hon. gentlemen opposite concede that. Our present law has cost this country for the imperfect revisions we have had during the past few years—not a revision every year but every two or three years—over a million dollars of public money, and that does not begin to represent what the revision has cost the people. I am speaking within bounds when I say that it cost from \$200 to \$500 to the individual candidate himself for each revision besides the million dollars spoken of as a cost to the country. The burden had become intolerable, and it was largely on that account, that the Liberal party advocated the adoption of the provincial franchise. This measure should be adopted because experience, the best test in the world, has shown that the principle of adopting the provincial franchise is a good one. From 1867, when confederation was first called to existence, up to 1885, that system was in vogue and it worked without complaint. If experience has proved it a good system, if it is inexpensive, and simple and easily understood, it has three qualifications which ought to recommend it to the people. Under these circumstances I had the honour in this House, some years ago, of moving that if the provincial lists were not adopted as the basis of a Dominion franchise list, if the House was determined to retain the making-up of those lists and the appointment of officers. I said that I for one was in favour of manhood suffrage as the franchise which should be adopted, and I adhere to that view now; but inasmuch as the great province of Quebec is wedded to its own system and will not accept manhood suffrage. I cast my vote in favour of the adoption of the provincial franchises. We will thus save a million dollars squandered in this attempt to build up a separate list, and will introduce a simple, plain, easily understood system, under which the electors, as a whole, can record their votes in favour of the candidates of their choice.

Mr. **ROCHE**. We have heard a good many hon. gentlemen opposite accuse members on this side of occupying a great deal of time in talking on almost every subject but the one before the House, but if the hon. gentleman can point to a speech delivered during this debate so utterly foreign to the question under discussion as was the first part of his own remarks. I should like very much to see it. A goodly portion of the balance of the hon. gentleman's speech consisted of braggadocio, and rather loud voiced bravado, of which he seems to be a master, and taking the cue which is likely to be followed in the near future by his own