

the sea alone, but from all parts of the Dominion comes in the answer that the people have lost confidence in him and his policy. Unequivocally and unreservedly they pronounce their faith in the Liberal party. Unequivocally the people of the province of Nova Scotia have pronounced their continued faith in that party which has ruled that province for the last fourteen or fifteen years.

Mr. FOSTER. It is a case of misplaced confidence.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Thirty-two to five is the best answer I can give. If I were to argue here for a week, I could not give a better one, or make it stronger. That great city in which the hon. gentleman's voice has been heard so often records a majority of 600 in favour of the three Liberal candidates, and the whole province has gone with a sweep and declared emphatically, beyond contradiction or doubt, that Toryism and Tupperism, as my hon. friend beside me has said, is dead in the province of Nova Scotia. But how about the great county of Colchester, and how about the historic county, which, almost since confederation, has returned, constantly, members to support the party to which the hon. gentleman belongs? Where is that county to-day? Even it has turned its back upon him. Cumberland has gone, Colchester has gone. The hon. gentleman was deploring that Colchester was not represented in this House, and I am pleased to be able to inform him that hereafter during this session and Parliament, Colchester will be well represented by a member supporting my hon. friend beside me (Mr. Laurier). Well, the hon. gentleman is to be commiserated. He has fought long and talked loud, and he would do well now, with his mature years, to recognize the handwriting upon the wall. He would do well to recognize the fact that in this great Dominion the young men are declaring themselves Liberals, that Canada is saturated with Liberal principles, and that from the Atlantic to the Pacific there is to-day one universal feeling, that Toryism is dead and buried. I offer my commiserations to the hon. gentleman. I feel somewhat sorry for him. His ranks are being decimated slowly but surely. Standing behind him is a small phalanx of the old guard, but day by day we find their numbers diminishing and others taking their places on the opposite side. I can only hope for the hon. gentleman that those who are nearer and behind him will remain true, for if they do not he will not be left with even a corporal's guard when the session is over.

I congratulate the hon. gentleman sincerely on one fact, that he has shown an example to his lieutenants and followers in this debate by endeavouring to discuss the merits of the Bill, and because he has done so, I propose to say a few words in reply. Towards the close of his speech he spoke of it as being an extremely bulky measure.

Mr. DAVIES.

No one knows better than the hon. gentleman himself that, although the Bill is somewhat bulky, it is a necessary consolidation of a large number of existing statutes, and that unless these statutes had been consolidated in the Bill, it would be almost impossible for the ordinary man to understand the election law at all. In this bulky Bill of sixty pages there are only very few sections which are new or which introduce a new principle. The other sections merely consolidate the existing diverse statutes on the election law. So that we have to confine ourselves, not to a discussion of the consolidation part of the Bill, but simply to a discussion of those new principles which the Bill introduces. Now, the hon. gentleman took some time just before dinner to show the iniquity of the present provincial franchises. He took as an instance the province of Manitoba, and he argued at some length basing his argument upon statements of the leader of the Opposition in that province and another member of the Opposition named McFadden, to prove that there was no earthly good to be found in the Manitoba election law at all. It was, to use his own language, a most infamous Act. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have had occasion to look through that Act; I have examined it somewhat critically, and I find that, taken as a whole, this Act of the legislature of the province of Manitoba, is, on the face of it, about as good an Act as could well be conceived of. I find, Sir, that it confers the franchise upon those of the male sex:

Who are of the age of twenty-one years and are British subjects by birth or naturalization, and who, at time of the proclamation of the appointment of a registration clerk, have been three months resident and domiciled within the electoral division, and have been one year resident and domiciled within the province.

And my surprise was intensified when after I had heard the hon. gentleman, for nearly half an hour, denouncing this Act as an infamous Act, to hear him wind up his lengthy speech by calling upon this House to adopt the very principle of manhood suffrage that was embodied in the Manitoba Act. How does the hon. gentleman reconcile these things?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My hon. friend (Mr. Davies) surely is not serious. I was not objecting to manhood suffrage being embodied in the Act, it was the administration of the Act, the corrupt administration of the Act, which I proved up to the hilt, and which the Manitoba "Free Press," supporting the hon. gentleman denounces as loudly as I do.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Then, I am glad to receive the confession of the hon. gentleman that it is not the Act itself that he denounces.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The Act contains this corrupt organization and administration.