

property right at all; and that theory having been adopted in six provinces and almost adopted in three other provinces, when we boldly make a Franchise Act based on manhood and womanhood suffrage I submit that we are reaching as nearly as can be, under our law and institutions, the proper ideal.

Now my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition may take this ground: He may say that he will contend for the federal principle and the right of the provinces to fix the law. I may contend on the other hand that it is the undoubted right of the Dominion Government to do so. I do not believe that in the final analysis or conclusion it is going to matter very much which ground we take; I believe the result is going to be practically the same whichever line of argument we take. My hon. friend may argue for the provincial principle and provincial control, and I think he will come back to manhood and womanhood franchise for Canada. I may argue it out on the principle of Dominion control, and the manhood and womanhood franchise laid down in this measure is the view of the Government and of myself as representing the Government.

So it is in regard to the voters' list; it does not matter very much what the argument may be. The Government say: "We realize that this Government has the undoubted right to pass laws for the preparation, revision and control of the lists. We can adopt, or not adopt, provincial lists as we see fit; for the sake of convenience, for the lessening of expense, we have decided to adopt provincial lists provided those lists are not more than a year old and provided an opportunity is given to make those lists conform to our franchise requirements." That is the proposal of the Bill. There is no other proposal in it, in regard to the voters' lists, that is the proposal and that is the result; and if the Bill in its present form is adopted it will have this effect in Canada; that in every province if there is in existence a provincial list, a regular provincial list, which is not more than one year old at the issue of a writ for an election, that *prima facie* will be the electoral list at the general election, and an opportunity is given to add to that list the names of all persons properly qualified to go upon it, and strike from it the names of persons that should be stricken from it. I do not know that I need elaborate that point any more.

In regard to the franchise I submit we are imposing no new, or impossible, or wrongful conditions upon any province. We are imposing the principle of manhood suf-

frage and womanhood suffrage on the provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island where they still maintain property qualifications, but as I pointed out a minute ago the property qualifications are so minor—

Mr. CANNON: There are no property qualifications in Quebec.

Mr. GUTHRIE: None in Quebec? Then the remark applies to the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; I thought property qualifications were required in Quebec too. But the property qualifications in those two provinces, excluding Quebec, are so minor and so insignificant as to amount to practically nothing. They have practically manhood franchise in Nova Scotia and in Prince Edward Island, and I think if we adopt it throughout the whole length and breadth of the country we will have both a uniform and a satisfactory franchise.

There is one other question which I should mention. It will be remembered that about a year ago this Parliament adopted the principle of woman suffrage. We did not adopt it in regard to this province, that province or the other province, but we made it as a law of this Parliament, apply to every province in Canada. I do not think objection was taken at the time to our constitutional right to do so. We did it and I think if objection was taken the House certainly never was divided on the principle. Within my recollection it was practically the unanimous wish of Parliament that that law should be passed though I remember some individuals in the House at the time did offer objections. Well, by the present Bill we will impose upon Quebec and Prince Edward Island womanhood suffrage. I have heard it said that that is very much against the will of the people in these two provinces. But after all isn't it merely an opportunity that we are giving them. There is no compulsion in the way of voting under this Bill. It has been suggested that there should be a compulsory voting clause incorporated, but by this Bill we are not imposing any duty upon the people of the province to do anything: We are not asking them to refrain from doing anything, we are not penalizing them if they do not do anything; all we say to the provinces of Quebec and Prince Edward Island, where womanhood suffrage has not been adopted in provincial matters, is "Here is the opportunity. If you see fit to avail yourselves of it well and good. Your women have a right to vote, but there is no compulsion in the matter, it is merely