

the voters' list. The qualification is so very low that every man could at once attain it if he was desirous of doing so. Then the franchise is extended to fishermen and their sons, and every provision seems to me to be made that the people shall be well and fully represented in the House of Commons. If it were a question affecting the rights of the province—if for instance it was going to deprive Prince Edward Island of a representative in the House of Commons it would be a totally different question. But that province is not deprived of any right; it will be represented by the same number under the operation of this Bill as it is to-day, so that the province is not injured in any way; its interests will be as fully guarded under this Bill as under the existing law. I certainly think the framers of the Confederation Act contemplated that a bill of this kind would be introduced at an early date in the history of the Dominion. The very language they used implies that such an idea was in their mind at the time, and it seems to me to be a natural and necessary thing that the Dominion Parliament should have the right of determining the franchise upon which its members are to be elected. For instance, if Ontario thought fit under the impulse of excessive liberality to give universal suffrage to its people, would not the other provinces have a right to complain of the basis on which that province was represented in the Dominion Parliament? I think we ought not to be exposed to a contingency of that kind. It might be done on a mere whim one year, and the next they might again change the franchise so that there would be no stability or fairness in their representation. There was another objection made by my hon. friend—I do not know whether it was under misapprehension—but he referred to the sending of a revising barrister from Ottawa down to his province. Now the Act itself clearly and distinctly provides that that could never be, that the revising barrister must be a person residing in the Province in which he is to act. At this late hour of the evening, although I would like to add some further remarks on this bill I do not think it is expedient to do so.

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—I do not rise for the purpose of speaking on the

HON. MR. VIDAL,

merits of the bill, but simply to call the attention of the Minister of Justice to that point which has just been adverted to—the sending of a barrister down to any province. Supposing a barrister who has had five years' practice in Ontario goes to reside in Nova Scotia or in any other province, should his five years' practice in the province he left not be a qualification to entitle him to act as a revising barrister in the locality to which he has removed, or does it disqualify him? I know very well, and I desire particularly to bring it to the notice of the hon. leader of this House, that in Manitoba, for instance, a very large number of the barristers there have gone up from this province. If they have had five years of practice in their profession in this province, should they be disqualified from being revising barristers in Manitoba because they have not had five years practice there? They are under this Act; but I do not think that such a result was contemplated by the framers of this Bill. Surely if a barrister has practised five years in any of the provinces he is qualified to be a revising barrister in any province in which he may choose to reside; but if you require in this bill that he must be five years practising in the province in which he is called upon to act as a revising barrister, you disqualify a very large number of barristers in Manitoba, as most of the barristers there are men who have gone from other provinces to practise their profession there. Very few of them have spent five years in Manitoba and under this Bill, unless a man has practised five years in that province, he cannot be a revising barrister.

HON. MR. POWER—Are they not admitted in Manitoba now?

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—Yes, but they must be five years practising at the bar in the province in which they are called upon to act as revising barristers, under section 13 of the Bill. I do not think it is very reasonable, and I do not think it is proper.

HON. MR. SMITH—The resident barrister ought to have the preference.

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—It is not his residence, it is his five years' practice