

that a man holds dear at the beck and nod of a Minister. I can scarcely bring my mind to believe that anyone seriously entertains the idea. I indignantly repel it as a gross slander upon the noble profession of which I have the honor to be a member. I do so emphatically in the case of the bar of Ontario, and I speak on the knowledge of nearly fifty years. At the close of the last century the Law Society of Upper Canada was established. In the language of the Act of Incorporation it was declared to be as well for the establishing of order amongst themselves as for the purpose of securing to the Province and to the profession a learned and hon. body to assist their fellow subjects as occasion may require and to support and maintain the constitution of the Province—and well and nobly have these objects been carried out as the records of the court, the records of Parliament and the political history of the country abundantly proves. But I cannot think that a doubt of the honor of the bar has permanent place with any. 'Tis true very bitter things are said in political discussions, and something of the prejudice that formed itself into a maxim 1,900 years ago, with a favored race, still survives amongst politicians, and, can anything good come out of Nazareth, is often the language of those politically opposed. I have not fallen in with anything from a calm, independent writer, against this measure, nor have members of the legal profession, who are not strong politicians, said aught against it. But I have read a good deal for and against it by the latter class. I have formed my own independent judgment—or rather, have adhered to the opinion I formed years ago—that it was desirable that the Parliament of Canada should regulate the right of suffrage for the Dominion, providing for the qualification of parliamentary electors the appropriate machinery by which it is to be evidenced in individual cases. I very willingly support this Bill believing it to be a necessary provision, and one that should have found a place on the statute book years ago. I am afraid I have encroached too long on the patience of the House, but I was desirous of placing deliberately on record my views on the subject. With regard to the power of the Dominion to deal with

the subject, there can be of course no doubt. No one has contended that the Bill is unconstitutional, and with regard to the language in which the British North America Act is conceived, the hon. member from Amherst brought that out very clearly. The plain intimation to the Parliament of the Dominion, was to legislate on the subject, and I am sorry that it was not done years ago, and before the bitter feeling which has arisen of late years had entered the minds of the people. The expense, no doubt stood in the way. It will be attended with considerable cost, but people must pay for their liberties and work would not be efficiently performed except the officers who perform it are paid fairly and liberally for what they do. I have no doubt the judges of the country will accept the work and be satisfied with reasonable remuneration, and I have no doubt whatever that the work will be better done than it is done to-day, and the only difficulty will be the preparation of the first lists; after that everything will work smoothly, and very little will have to be done by the judges from year to year, so that I feel in this measure very great and necessary improvements will be made. I again thank hon. gentlemen for having listened to what must have wearied their patience.

HON. MR. PAQUET (in French)—I shall vote with great pleasure for the motion of my hon. friend from Ottawa, and as I speak in a language which is not understood by the majority in this House, I shall be as brief as possible. The position which we, from the Province of Quebec, occupy in this House on a subject of this kind is a difficult one. We have also to deal with a measure which concerns the other Chamber only. The members of this House are not required to present themselves before the electorate, but on the other hand we occupy the position of moderators between the Crown and the people. I hope that among the hon. members of this House none will be found in favor of universal suffrage on the one side, or, on the other, of granting special privileges to an aristocratic minority. I regret that some members in this House, as well as in the other Chamber, fail to find any justification for our opposition to this Bill, and have gone so far as to accuse