

is the same for similar conditions, and the Central Government in England absolutely controls its franchise, and does not leave it to the dictates of any body in Scotland or in Ireland. The Imperial Parliament itself determines its franchise, and that is the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party in Canada. We admit that the present franchise Act can be reformed, and we were prepared to have reformed it had we remained in power. Sir John Thompson's Bill would have reformed it in many important directions, and if our friends opposite will bring in a proper measure retaining the control of the franchise in this Parliament, I am satisfied they will meet with a generous support from this side of the House. If on the other hand, they propose to hand over control of our franchise to the provinces, then I for one will say, that I am prepared to meet it at every step with the most determined opposition.

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call the attention of the House for a moment to a statement made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries as regards Prince Edward Island. I do not suppose that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davies) intended intentionally to misrepresent the facts in Prince Edward Island, but he evidently was so eager to make a point in favour of the Bill which he supported, that he went down to the province of Prince Edward Island for arguments, and perhaps unintentionally misrepresented the facts. He told the House that the presidents and the secretaries of the Liberal-Conservative associations were pitchforked into the positions of revising barristers in that province, and he instanced the name of Charles R. Smallwood. Now, would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davies) be surprised to know that Mr. Charles R. Smallwood was not a revising barrister at all. I think the hon. gentleman, in his eagerness to make out a case fell into a mistake, and I would advise him to be a little more careful. I have the report of the Auditor General, and I will read to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and to the House a list of the revising barristers in Prince Edward Island, and if he can reconcile that list with the supposed names of gentlemen which he led the House to believe were revising officers in that province, I shall leave it for him to do so. For King's, the name of the revising officer is John S. Macdonald. Was he either the president or the secretary of a Liberal-Conservative association in Prince Edward Island?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I believe he was.

Mr. MARTIN. I leave it to the hon. member for King's (Mr. Macdonald) to answer that question, but my information is that he was not. In East Prince Judge Macleod is the revising officer. Was he a president or a secretary of a Conservative association? For West Prince, N. McQuarrie is the revis-

ing officer. The hon. gentleman may say something about him—I do not know, but at least in four points out of five he is wrong—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He was the president.

Mr. MARTIN. For East Queen's, A. A. McLean is the revising officer. Was he either a president or a secretary? For West Queen's, W. S. Stewart; was he a president or a secretary? So there is not one case in Prince Edward Island, with the possible exception of Mr. McQuarrie, that justifies the hon. gentleman in making the sweeping statement he has made to the House. I would not have made any reference to this matter only I think it is unfair that the hon. gentleman should always go to Prince Edward Island in order to bolster up a weak argument. If the hon. gentleman thinks he can misrepresent the facts in regard to Prince Edward Island, so long as I have the honour to hold a seat here, I will try to set him right. Now, the hon. gentleman has referred to the gerrymander of Prince Edward Island. With all due deference to him, I say that the Liberal party in Prince Edward Island are the last party who should refer to a gerrymander, because they are guilty of the most iniquitous gerrymander in Prince Edward Island that has ever been perpetrated in any province of the Dominion, and the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries knows it. The hon. gentleman also knows very well that some years ago the Liberal party in Prince Edward Island disfranchised most of the Dominion officials in that province in order to obtain a temporary victory; and what do we see to-day? We see in the local legislature, where the Liberal party is in power, that the very act which they placed on the Statute-book a few years ago to disfranchise the Dominion officials, they are now going to repeal. Why? Because they have turned out the Conservative officials and are replacing them with their own supporters, and they need those votes at the local elections in Prince Edward Island, which is near at hand. I am very sorry I have to correct the hon. gentleman, but I could not do much less than I have done, as I could not sit silently in this House whilst any imputations were made against the revising barristers in Prince Edward Island, who performed their duties honestly and well. With regard to this Bill generally, I did expect, after all we heard from the Liberal party while in Opposition about the National Policy and what an incubus it was upon this country, that it would be the first Act they would repeal. The first session of this Parliament is passed. Last session we were told that we would have a session early in the year, when a new tariff would be submitted to Parliament; but, strange to say, the meeting of Parliament was postponed from time to time. I

Mr. HUGHES.