

North West and Manitoba, as a matter of congratulation. Undoubtedly it is a matter of congratulation that there should be a steady flow of immigrants into this country. Whether it is so much a matter of congratulation that those settlers should be chiefly people who go from one part of the country to another is open to doubt; but there is another point as to which there is no doubt, and that is that the efflux of people who have been born and grown up in this country, and who are the fittest inhabitants of the country, which has been going on during the past year perhaps to as great an extent as during any previous year, to the neighboring republic, is an unfortunate and undesirable circumstance, I can speak from observation of a portion of the Province from which I come. In the neighborhood of the Strait of Canso, on both sides of the Strait, I know, the efflux to the United States has been so great that there are very few young people to be met with—I mean grown up young people. The population of two or three counties is composed in a great measure—much greater than it ought to be—of old people and children. I regret that the policy which was to have kept our people at home has not had that effect. My views as to the paragraphs in the speech and address which indicate that the Government propose to introduce a measure to provide a franchise for the Dominion are similar to the views expressed by the hon. gentleman from Ottawa. I think, in the first place, that the time for introducing the measure is strangely chosen. The present Government are in power for five years, it is to be presumed; and it is a singular thing that they should immediately on coming back with five years lease of power, undertake to alter the franchise, and alter it in such a way no doubt as they believe will secure them for a further tenure of office. It seems to me, after the lapse of two or three years, if such a thing were necessary, it would be quite time enough to introduce the measure which is here indicated. But the measure, to my mind—I may be mistaken—is altogether unnecessary. Take the old country, where there has been legislation on the question of the franchise for a great many years, and the franchise in Ireland is altogether different from the franchise in England, while the franchise

in Scotland differs from both. It seems to me that the differences between the characters of the people, and the financial and social conditions of the people in the various Provinces of the Dominion are as great as the differences in the conditions of the people of the three kingdoms. The kind of franchise which suits the Province of Ontario will not suit the Province of Prince Edward Island, or probably the Province of Quebec; and it seems to me that it would be a great deal better to allow each Province to select that franchise which suits itself. We have alongside us, in the United States, a country with a government whose main outlines are similar to our own. It is a federal government; and in that country their constitution provides that the state of things which we have here shall be the rule. There the voters for the House of Representatives are the same as the voters for the more numerous branch of the State Legislature. That is the rule we have here now. That is the rule which has worked so well in the United States for over one hundred years that they have never dreamed of changing it; and we have not been shown the slightest reason why that rule should be changed here. What will be the practical working of the proposed system, in all probability? The Government will bring in a bill, and that bill will involve the necessity of a completely new machinery, starting from the assessment roll, or some such point, and going up to the revising barrister. No doubt it will give the Government an opportunity to reward a number of persons who have served them faithfully during the past few years, and it will involve a very considerable diminution of the surplus with which the Government is at present afflicted.

As to the paragraph in the speech which speaks of the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case of Russell against the Queen, I have only to say, as I said with reference to the preceding one, that my views are in accord with those of the hon. gentleman from Ottawa. It is a very important matter. The Government appear to intend to make, what I look upon as an unnecessary and unfortunate attack on the rights of the provincial legislatures; and I think that, having the Minister of Justice in this House, whose especial