

question is, what should take its place. I, for one, am glad to hear members on both sides declare that they wish to approach this question as free from party bias as possible. There are some members who think that no one can talk on either side without showing party feeling. There is one hon. gentleman who has never said anything, since I have come here, in reference to any member on this side, without imputing unworthy motives to him. I refer to the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. Bennett). When any one on this side rises to address the House, he is, according to that hon. gentleman, a confessed schemer or has some promise in his pocket, or there is something that disentitles him from saying a word on the question before the House. But I am glad to say that there are others who are fair to hon. members on this side, and are willing to deal with questions of this kind in a generous and impartial spirit. It is in the interest of everybody that these lists should be correctly made, and that every one on them should have the right to vote, and if we can, either through the machinery provided by the provinces or provided by ourselves, get lists that are pure and right, we shall have obtained the desideratum sought for by all members on both sides.

It is proposed that the provincial lists shall be used, and as has been said by the right hon. the Premier and as was said, better than I can hope to say it, by the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Heyd), representation by provinces is a part of our system of government in this country, and if the provinces are satisfied to entrust the provincial electors with the franchise for the purpose of sending men to Parliament at Ottawa, it seems to me that we ought not to complain. It is our own doing. If this Bill is passed it is equivalent to our saying that these men qualified to vote for representatives in the provincial House are competent to vote for members in this House. We do not dispose of anything except for the present. We may be putting it in the hands of the provinces to pass laws hereafter that we may not approve of. But in that case the same legislative power exists in this Parliament to alter the law if it is found to work injustice. These laws of the several provinces seem to be good, as they have been described by the different members who have spoken, except in the case of Prince Edward Island as stated by the hon. member for Queen's (Mr. Martin), upon which I shall comment later. Take the Ontario law, with which I am, of course, more familiar than with that of any other province. One hon. gentleman said that we do not have annual lists in Ontario. We do have annual lists. The first person who has to deal with the names of those who are to be electors is the assessor. As everybody knows, the assessor is a municipal officer sometimes of one side of politics, if he has any politics at all, and sometimes

of the other, but in no sense a political representative. He is chosen, as a rule, because he is a man of good judgment, knows the value of property, and is a fair and disinterested man to make out the list of property liable for assessment. He prepares his roll, which then goes to the clerk of the municipality. In many cases these clerks have held their offices for many years. They are men who come at last to have very little feeling one way or the other in political matters. They hold their office year after year under the different municipal councils, in which the Conservative element sometimes predominates and sometimes the Liberal, and in the course of time they assume a neutral tint in regard to politics. They are sworn men. The clerk takes the list from the assessors and classifies the people according to qualification, those who vote for municipal officers and those who vote in the provincial elections. The list being printed it is sent out. Hon. gentlemen who look at the Act will see what care has been taken to have all this done with the greatest impartiality and in such a way that the greatest publicity can be given to it so that every wrong may be set right. The clerks are obliged to send the lists to the members of the council, and to the different public officers of the municipality. They are obliged to send ten copies to the member of this House, recognizing him as one who is interested in the preparation of the voters' lists. They are obliged also to send ten copies to the defeated candidate for this House if he has polled any votes, also to the provincial representative and the defeated candidate, also ten copies to each of the Reeves. The officials who receive these copies are obliged to put them up in their offices, with a view, as stated, to securing the greatest publicity for these lists. Then comes the question of appeals. Anybody can appeal who is interested in that matter, and the appeal is to the judge. After proper steps have been taken, which I need not specify, the judge hears the appeals and strikes off the names that should not appear on the list and adds those that should. No precaution could be suggested that is not taken in order to give only those who are qualified a place upon these lists. If we are satisfied to accept the same qualification in voters as is provided in the case of the local House, the work is complete and ready to our hand, and that without expense to us. It is true there are small fees given to the clerk of the municipality, and a fee of \$4 a day and personal expenses for the county judge, if I remember well. We have nothing to do with this, we do not pay the money. As to the registration of voters under the Manhood Suffrage Act, there is a slightly higher fee, \$5 a day, I think to the county judge and \$10 a day to the chairman of the board of registration. There is, therefore, a tremendous saving of expense so