

having furnished each Member with a copy of the last edition of the Revised Statutes. He would have done so, but he knew not where to obtain them.

HON SOL. GEN.—Nova Scotia was the first Colony under the Crown to revise the Statutes.

When a copy of the first edition was handed to the Lord High Chancellor of England he spoke very highly of it. So far from being filled with verbiage, it was highly and creditably spoken of in the British Parliament. In England they have been endeavouring for half a century to revise their laws, but have not succeeded yet—so difficult has the task been found. Although misunderstandings did occur in the construction of our Revised Statutes, that did not prove that the work was not well done. That volume with which all laws should correspond was read by learned gentlemen who were capable of appreciating and knowing the value of language, and yet so differently was it construed that there were fifty or sixty different religions in the word, all taking their opinions from the one book. Punch said that every man is supposed to know the law except the twelve judges at Westminster. It is a fiction of law that every man is supposed to know the law. Who reduced our laws to a system? The lawyers themselves. Now we have a volume easily accessible and quite intelligible. We find that even in the science of medicine there are great improvements. Large doses of medicine are not so frequently given as formerly. Homœopathy is now in a great measure in vogue. It is found now that a vial of medicine can be poured into a stream, and that water can be taken from the stream five miles away and make a very good dose. (Laughter.)

MR. S. CAMPBELL.—These remarks as to lawyers come with a very bad grace from the medical profession. Prescriptions are not always written in good plain English, and often can hardly be said to be in good Latin. I have seen prescriptions the hieroglyphics attending which are enough to frighten a sick man into the grave. (Laughter.) The hon member from the North Riding of Kings has referred to the old language of the declarations. The length of them has been considerably changed by the action of lawyers in this house, and who have been in it, and their fees have been considerably diminished in consequence.

MR. ARCHIBALD.—Any thing that can be done to make the law more clear should be adopted. At the same time there is an inconvenience in making a law too brief. What you gain in space you are apt to lose in precision. We have had the honor of presenting a model which the Imperial Parliament themselves are desirous to follow.

FRANCHISE BILL.

MR JOST made a few remarks which were almost inaudible in the gallery, but seemed to refer to the Franchise Bill of last Session, of which he was understood to express his disapproval.

HON. PROV. SEC'Y.—I suppose it will be considered incumbent on the Government to give some expression of opinion with regard to this Bill. I can easily understand why there should

be an anxiety on the part of new members to know the opinion of the Government with regard to it. The Bill is not one which is to go into operation to-morrow. Under ordinary circumstances, it will be four years before a general election is held under it. In the meantime, the people themselves will have an opportunity of seeing the working of the proposed machinery. I need not tell the House of the strenuous opposition which I gave this Bill. The objections which I made to this measure are familiar to the House and to the country. It is very well known that while a portion of the Bill—that portion which we chiefly objected to, and which provided that the Bill should go into immediate operation—was defeated in the upper branch of the Legislature, a very decided majority of that Branch gave their firm and unqualified adhesion to the law as it is now on the Statute Book. The Government cannot, if they would, shut out that fact from their consideration. It has occurred to the Government that it would be better to let the law go to the country as it is, and let the objections to it develop themselves. If the objections are such as that the law should be repealed, the House will hear it, and hear it on measured tones.

DR. HAMILTON was not in favour of the machinery proposed for the Bill. He had seen too much of it.

MR JOST was not disposed to give his assent to the measure.

MR. ARCHIBALD.—The honble Prov. Sec'y says that he expects that there will be difficulties in working the law. I do not think that the position of the hon and learned gentleman on this question is just that which he should take. I take it that the policy of the Government should be either to repeal the law and return to universal suffrage, or else to introduce another measure. The difficulties to which he alludes are those with which he should cope. If the machinery is not what it should be, let him provide other machinery. He is hardly dealing with the law as he should deal with it. He is not in the habit of speaking with bated breath of the policy he intends to pursue. I therefore hope that I may draw the inference that it is not the serious intention of the Government to repeal the Bill. I am glad that the first gentleman who has risen to speak on this subject has said that he is not pledged to universal suffrage. If the government or any gentlemen think that they can improve the machinery of the Bill, I will cordially aid them in doing so. If the Government are desirous of still further elevating the franchise, they will find no difficulty on this side of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL.—I hope that a large majority of the House, as well as a large majority in the country, are of one mind with regard to this Bill, that to continue it on the Statute Book would be one of the most unpopular acts that could be done. As far as my knowledge extends it is a gutter bill, and the sound of it echoes from one end of the Province to the other. It is a Bill which every man feels ought not to have been framed as it was. It was framed for a motive, not to elevate the franchise, but for another motive. But, sir, it did not answer the motive, but it answered another purpose. And now are