

not know, for my own part, that that is very objectionable, provided the women would be willing to exercise the privilege and vote at elections. My own opinion is, that they would not. We allowed women to vote upon property in Nova Scotia up to 1851, and I think; if you were to search the poll books now, you would find that very few indeed, and comparatively none, of the women, took advantage of that privilege. Therefore, I think that if you were to pass this law at the present time or incorporate it into this Bill, it would be a dead letter. It is true a few might take advantage of it, but very few indeed. I, however, do say, that if you give one portion of the women a right to vote you must extend it to the rest, and therefore I hope that if this is adopted it may be extended to all women who own property, whether they be married or single. Now, a word or two in regard to the Province of Quebec. I do not think, so far as I can learn, that this Bill, if enacted into law, is going to be popular in that Province. It may satisfy the larger cities; it may satisfy the city of Quebec and the city of Montreal, where the franchise has been extended, but I cannot believe that it will be satisfactory to the bulk of the people of the Province. If there is anything they have expressed a strong opinion upon, it is their desire to maintain their position in the Confederacy as a separate Province, and I contend that this Bill is the first step towards breaking down and obliterating provincial lines and preparing us for a legislative union. If it is intended to do this, as I said before, I can see why there would be a necessity for this Bill. If we are, by and by, to break down these lines, and say that we are to have a representative in this House for every 20,000 inhabitants of the Dominion, without reference to any Province, I can then see that it would be only reasonable and fair that the Dominion should fix the franchise on which to elect the members. But as the provincial franchise has been adopted and used for nearly eighteen years, without any fault having been found, or any evil consequences resulting from it, I think we may safely allow that franchise to continue, and elect our members under it, as we have heretofore done, giving each Province the right to regulate its own franchise, according to the circumstances in which it is placed. Why, Mr. Speaker, what are we doing to-day? If you undertake to fix the franchise in this House, either one of the larger Provinces if so disposed could force this franchise on any of the smaller Provinces, no matter whether it suited them or not. Now, I say that we have no right to force upon each Province any franchise we choose. I say this law will be injurious to several of the Provinces, and will act very detrimentally to their interests. The hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Townshend) stated very broadly, and he is a lawyer, too, that this did not reduce the franchise in Nova Scotia. Now, I have shown conclusively that it does restrict the franchise in that Province, and will take away the right to vote from a number of electors. He stated that the main objection to this Bill is the way it was prepared. Well, I imagine that it is in the preparation of any Bill that the objections must creep in. If the Bill was prepared in some other way, and a different franchise adopted, and a different mode of appointing revisers, the probability is that it would have been more satisfactory. The revisers in the Province of Nova Scotia are appointed by the municipalities. They appoint three men to revise the list. The assessors are bound to furnish them with the assessment roll, and from that assessment roll the revisers make the voters' list, which they hand in to the clerk of the peace, and from that list the sheriff makes up his list of voters. No list is valid until it is certified to by the clerk of the peace and the sheriff. Now, the hon. member for King's, N. S. (M. Woodworth), told us, to-day, that our present mode was very objectionable; that in the

list, and had left off a number of voters. Now, I do not see how that could be. The sheriff of Annapolis county was in full sympathy with the Government of that day; and how the list could be made up by the clerk of the peace, and used by the sheriff, where the law requires both to certify that it is a correct and true list, I cannot understand. I think the hon. member for King's must have been misinformed. I have no doubt he heard so, but I am quite sure such a thing could not occur under our law. If it did take place, the sheriff did not understand his business, or he would not have allowed such a list to be used, and he would have insisted upon the clerk of the peace making the list perfect before he would have used it. I shall not dwell upon this subject any longer. I hardly expected to speak upon this question at all, but I thought it necessary to refer to one or two remarks made by Nova Scotia members before the vote is taken.

House divided on motion of Sir John A. Macdonald for second reading of the Bill.

## YEA :

## Messieurs

Abbott,	Dickinson,	McDougald (Pictou),
Bain (Soulanges),	Dodd,	McDougall (C. Breton),
Baker (Missisquoi),	Dugas,	McLellan,
Baker (Victoria),	Dundas,	McNeill,
Barnard,	Farrow,	Massue,
Beaty,	Ferguson (Leeds & Gren),	Mitchell,
Bell,	Ferguson (Welland),	Moffat,
Benoit,	Fortin,	Montplaisir,
Benson,	Gagné,	Paint,
Beggeron,	Girouard,	Patterson (Essex),
Bergin,	Gordon,	Pinsonneault,
Billy,	Grandbois,	Pope,
Blondeau,	Guilbault,	Pruyn,
Bossé,	Guillet,	Riopel,
Bourbeau,	Hackett,	Robertson (Hastings),
Bowell,	Hall,	Royal,
Bryson,	Hay,	Byker,
Burnham,	Hesson,	Shakespeare,
Burns,	Hickey,	Small,
Cameron (Inverness),	Hilliard,	Sproule,
Cameron (Victoria),	Homer,	Stairs,
Campbell (Victoria),	Hurteau,	Taschereau,
Carling,	Ives,	Tasé,
Caron,	Jenkins,	Taylor,
Chapleau,	Kaulbach,	Temple,
Cimon,	Kilvert,	Townshend,
Cochrane,	Kinney,	Tupper,
Colby,	Kranz,	Valin,
Coughlin,	Labrosse,	Vanasse,
Coursol,	Landry (Montmagny),	Wallace (York),
Curran,	Langevin,	White (Cardwell),
Cuthbert,	Lesage,	White (Hastings),
Daly,	Macdonald (Kings),	White (Renfrew),
Daoust,	Macdonald (Sir John),	Wigle,
Dawson,	Mackintosh,	Wood (Brookville),
Dessaulniers (Mask'ngé),	McMillan (Vaudreuil),	Wood (Westmoreland),
Dessaulniers (St. M'rice),	McCallum,	Woodworth.—111.

## NAYS :

## Messieurs

Allen,	Fairbank,	McIsaac,
Armstrong,	Fisher,	McMullen,
Auger,	Fleming,	Mills,
Bain (Wentworth),	Forbes,	Mulock,
Béchar,	Geoffrion,	Paterson (Brant),
Bernier,	Gigault,	Platt,
Blake,	Gilmor,	Ray,
Bourassa,	Gunn,	Rinfret,
Burpee,	Harley,	Robertson (Shelburne),
Cameron (Huron),	Holton,	Scrivner,
Cameron (Middlesex),	Innes,	Somerville (Brant),
Campbell (Renfrew),	Irvine,	Somerville (Bruce),
Cartwright,	Jackson,	Springer,
Casey,	King,	Sutherland (Oxford),
Casgrain,	Kirk,	Trow,
Catudal,	Landerkin,	Vail,
Charlton,	Langelier,	Watson,
Cockburn,	Laurier,	Weldon,
Davies,	Lister,	Wells,
Dupont,	Livingstone,	Wilson,
Edgar,	McCraney,	Yeou.—63.

Motion agreed to; and Bill read the second time.