

bribery and corruption effected his defeat—leading, probably, to the defeat of the Government of the day. He had seen enough in that contest to convince him that, when a member was elected to this house, he should be elected to the free exercise of all the incidents and attributes of his position; for, if a constituency considered a man fit to be their representative, they must consider him fit to have a seat on the treasury benches.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD begged to suggest in connection with this bill, that when it was proposed to amend any Act of the Consolidated Statutes, it would be better, instead of simply amending it, to take the whole measure and re-enact it in such shape as might be found desirable. This would be greatly for the convenience of Magistrates and others, who would require to be acquainted with the legislation of this house. This was the course he proposed to take himself as far as he could, with reference to any legislation emanating from the Government.

Mr. McKELLAR thought the Bill which the gallant Knight was introducing, was a very important one. A change in the election law was very much required. He quite agreed that we ought to have the elections all on one day, and that there should be only one day's polling. Other checks also might be adopted to prevent the fearful corruption which had been witnessed during the late contest. At the same time, he thought this was a measure of such importance that the Government ought to take it in hand (Hear, hear). They had assumed the responsibility of legislating for the country, and if there was any subject of legislation more important than another, he thought it was that which concerned the purity of elections. He was prepared to support any good measure on this subject; but he did not think the Government should allow such a measure to be taken out of their hands by any private member, however distinguished, or whatever experience he might have had—and the gallant knight, he admitted, had had a great deal of experience. It did look as if hon. gentlemen opposite had deputed the gallant knight to take up all the difficult measures they had to deal with.

Sir HENRY SMITH said the hon. member for Bothwell did not act fairly towards himself or the Premier. The Premier, on a previous occasion, had stated to the house that there had been no communication between them as to the bills which he (Sir Henry) was to introduce. He had not conversed with the Premier as to these bills, and had no understanding with him about them; and he hoped this would be the last time that such an allusion would be made. He held that it was the right, the privilege, and the duty of every honourable member to contribute to the legislation of the country. He could not subscribe to the doctrine that all important legislation should rest with the Government, and that the other members were to be mere cyphers to stand up and say