

its orders. Let me point out a strong evidence to the contrary, in which the facts are already transpiring on the floor of the Local House. So excited are the friends of the hon. gentleman from Halifax in the Local House of Nova Scotia over the recent victory of this Government in that Province, that, not content with having disfranchised many Dominion officials, they have introduced a Bill, and have succeeded in carrying it through nearly all its important stages, disfranchising, in connection with municipal elections, all Dominion officials and preventing them exercising any municipal rights. That is an evidence of the friendship and impartiality of the Local Government of Nova Scotia, and by it we can judge of the way in which they would be inclined to carry out the law in reference to Dominion elections. Further than that, a short time before the Local elections in Nova Scotia in June last, the hon. gentleman's liberal-minded friends took from the judges the power they previously had in regulating the appointment of sheriffs and assumed that power to themselves. They appointed their most bitter partisans, and at present their friends in some parts of the Province are quarrelling over the distribution of that patronage. The hon. gentleman has not quite fairly stated this question, as it affects the administration of the election law in the Province of Nova Scotia, and I think the people in that Province will be rather surprised to hear that there is no necessity for this House to guard against an attempt on the part of the Local Administration of Nova Scotia to interfere, and improperly interfere, in the elections for the Dominion House of Commons.

Mr. CASEY. The right hon. the leader of the House was good enough to tell us that my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) was out of temper because he was disappointed as to the attitude of public opinion towards the party of which we form a part, and that for the same reason we all appear to be out of temper; and he gave us the liberty of being out of temper, because we were so badly beaten. Now, if we were to judge from the tone of the hon. member for Bothwell and that of the right hon. the leader of the House, if we are to judge by the temper expressed in the two speeches, we must come to the conclusion, did we not know which side has the majority, that the gentleman who felt himself in the minority must be the right hon. gentleman, since his speech was the worse tempered of the two. He launched out in a most unmeasured strain against the officials of the Local Government; he said they were all men hostile to the Dominion Government, and therefore not to be trusted to conduct the Dominion elections. Yet, to correct this partisanship of the provincial officials, what does he propose to do? Does he propose to appoint impartial men? By no means. He proposes instead to appoint men specially for the occasion, who, he knows, will be partial to himself. He could not trust his candidates before the country unless he appointed revising barristers and returning officers known to be partial to himself and his Government. On what does he base his argument? He bases it on a very strong assertion. He is in the habit of making strong assertions. He declares that open and undisguised threats have been used against sheriffs and registrars to prevent them from acting impartially as returning officers. That is a sweeping assertion; but I challenge the right hon. gentleman to name a single instance, in Ontario at all events, where any threat, open and undisguised, or covert or hidden, was used towards a registrar or sheriff to induce him to act partially as returning officer. The hon. gentleman has traded for years in assertions without bringing proofs to sustain them, and it is time for him to bring forward some instance to bear out his present statement, or retract what appears to be on its face, as far as we have any evidence to show, a purely gratuitous assertion. He denies that we were free from complaint in regard to the action of returning officers, when registrars and sheriffs were

the only returning officers. I do not say that we were absolutely free from complaint, but I do not remember any complaint being made that a registrar or sheriff had favored the Local Government at the expense of the Dominion Government during the time registrars and sheriffs were the returning officers. The right hon. gentleman would create a case for himself, which he has not at present, if he would bring forward an instance of a sheriff or registrar under the old law having acted partially against the Government of the Dominion and in favor of the opposite party, at all events in Ontario; but, Sir, after all these sweeping assertions, after all this assumption of universal knowledge in regard to the motives of sheriffs, of registrars, of local governments and of local officials, he wound up his speech by displaying the most childlike simplicity in regard to the action of which we are complaining to-day. He said he could not see that it made any difference whether a man was gazetted first or last, that there were thirty days to intervene in any case. Of course in the case of a young member of the House like the right hon. gentleman, the suggestion may be pardoned, but to the numerous gentlemen who sit behind him and have so much longer experience than he has, it will be clear that, the longer the time that elapses between the election and the gazettement, the longer time there is for the opponents of a member to collect evidence against him in order to apply it against his return.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CASEY. Yes, of course, my hon. friends laugh; but the conduct of every candidate will be investigated by his opponents in order to see if there is any case for a petition, and, if you give them plenty of time, they may find something against him.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CASEY. And that is why we believe the right hon. member secured his being gazetted for Kingston at the earliest possible moment, while he postponed his being gazetted for Carleton to the latest moment. In Carleton he did not fear the result so much, and it did not matter very much, but having been unseated for Kingston before, he thought it might happen again, and therefore he secured that he should be gazetted for Kingston at the earliest date. If you take the time between the election and the gazettement, and add the thirty days, you will find it is a long purgatory through which every member will have to pass to expiate the consequence of his misdeeds.

Mr. BOWELL. Oh!

Mr. CASEY. I take that back. I know that word is not pleasing to the ears of the hon. Minister. I will say the period of probation. I withdraw the word purgatory. In this case, the right hon. gentleman has had to endure a much shorter period of probation than the hon. member for Halifax and many other hon. members of this House, and so he has reason to thank the returning officer, or the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery—I do not know which—perhaps both—who, perhaps without any instruction, shortened his period of probation in that very risky constituency of Kingston. I think, under all the circumstances, the motion of my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) is justified, and I hope the House will pass it.

Mr. IVES. I was disappointed that the hon. member in his speech did not take up the Quebec list. I should have been interested to hear him use the words Tory and Reformer in regard to a large number of the members from that Province. Is it possible that the hon. gentleman has not yet been able to come to an exact conclusion as to how some of the members from the Province of Quebec are to be classified, and is that the reason why he has not favored us with a classification. He might have been able to give a