

every case revise the provincial list, should the Dominion franchise, being based on the municipal lists, he must revise the list the same as if no election had taken place and as if no list had been revised by the candidates for the local legislature.

It is perfectly idle to contend that either a municipal revision, which is a mere preliminary revision, or a revision for the provincial elections, is sufficient to take the place of the revision necessary for the Dominion elections. In every case we must have a revision for the Dominion as well as for the local elections, unless they take place in the same year, which is a most unlikely and a most undesirable thing. Hon. gentlemen in power here and those in power in the province of Ontario are pulling the strings together pretty well now. I do not know how long that will last; but the right arm of the hon. First Minister would no doubt think it a proper thing to bring on the provincial elections at the same time as the Dominion elections. In that case they could use the same lists; but otherwise they could not. With regard to the expense upon the candidates, the local candidates must bear the cost of their own revision, and even if this Bill becomes law, the Dominion candidates will have to bear the cost of revising the lists on their own account just as much as if the Dominion Franchise Act was in force. What happens? Whenever there is a revision of the lists, the judges must be paid, the clerks must be paid, other expenses must be provided for, and in the long run there is not one dollar saved to either the provincial or Dominion candidates. We have therefore to come down to the narrow question as to the sums to be paid to the judges and revisers, and the other expenses, and who should pay them. I do not know whether hon. gentlemen seek shelter under the suggestion that there is something to be gained by unloading the expense upon the municipalities. I do not think that is an expense which the people of Ontario are prepared to take upon themselves; and I do not see any reason why the Federal Parliament of Canada should not bear a fair share of the cost of revising the lists. The question of cost appears now to be the only possible ground of contention between the two political parties, and upon that ground it seems to me that we could meet and get a reasonable Bill, the provisions of which would give no party advantage. We were told by the right hon. First Minister that the cardinal principle of this Bill was to take the revision of the lists out of the hands of those desperate revising officers, and place it entirely under the control of the municipalities. The right hon. gentleman must know that, in view of the varied franchises in all the provinces, particularly those in the province of Ontario to-day, if that be the cardinal prin-

ciple, it is violated on the very threshold. The cities and county towns of the province are to-day under the Registration Act, which means that one-fourth of the whole voting population of Ontario are absolutely beyond the control of the municipalities. I can hardly believe that hon. gentlemen opposite took that into consideration when they made the statement that the revision was to be under municipal control. But that cardinal principle is violated further than that. If the provincial lists be more than one year old, this Bill provides that Dominion machinery may be initiated under the authority of the Parliament of Canada to secure a revision. Hon. gentlemen know perfectly well that they are unable, under the existing laws of the province of Ontario, to put in motion any municipal machinery for the revision of the lists, and therefore they must provide machinery for making up their own lists. It is most likely to happen at any time that the local lists shall be more than one year old, as the scope of the Registration Act is being constantly extended. In fact, there is a provision on the Statute-book to-day that the Registration Act may be extended to all the cities, towns and villages of the province of Ontario; and when that is done, it practically means that in all such cases the lists will be more than a year old, and the greater part of the revision will have to take place under the authority of the federal Act, and not under the authority of the municipalities or the province. Now, there are strong reasons against handing over the control of the federal franchise—to the provincial authorities. We commit ourselves, by an act of that kind, to a franchise that we absolutely know nothing about. We commit ourselves to a franchise which will vary in each province, and will take the insane course of handing over to the provinces the complete control of the Dominion franchise. The franchise adopted by each province—no matter how inconsistent these franchises may be with each other—will form an integral part of the Dominion franchise. Whether it be one that would commend itself to this Parliament or not, and whether it be good or bad, we will have to abide by the consequences.

I submit moreover that this is a dangerous power to place in the hands of the local legislatures. We have striking examples given us of what erratic and mischievous courses these legislatures may follow in order to gain a party advantage at an election. The hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills) has shown us what has taken place in the province of Nova Scotia, and we have had most striking instances of the abuses which have arisen in the province of Manitoba out of the franchise adopted in that province—a franchise based upon the sole ground of party advantage. We are