

or four years that candidates for the Ontario legislature ever devote their time or attention to the local lists. It would be burdensome to these candidates, to year in and year out, keep the lists in a perfect condition, and the result is that for three years as a rule the local lists go without hardly a name appearing, of what is known as "manhood suffrage men." But in the fourth year a rush is made by political parties and the result is that, prepared as these lists are in Ontario, and with the attack on these lists, a large expenditure is occasioned by the municipality. The whole trouble with the Ontario Act is this: That the lists are printed first and the revision is held afterwards. That is what prevents the possibility of any honesty in the acceptance of the provincial voters' list.

Now, Sir, what is the cost to the local municipalities when these revisions take place? After the list has been prepared by the clerk, and displayed the length of time provided by the statute, then the appeals are made to the clerk and afterwards the trials are held by the county court judge. Every municipality has to bear that expense. I take the township of Tay where the expense was \$67.75 on a single municipality; I take the township of Medonte where the cost was \$88.68; I take the town of Orillia where the cost on that municipality was \$90.50, and the town of Midland where the cost was \$50.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. How was that cost incurred; what is the nature of it?

Mr. BENNETT. I will come to that in a moment. In the town of Penetanguishene the cost was \$48, and I might quote other municipalities which will bear out my allegation that at every revision of the local voters' list there will be an average cost to each municipality of from \$60 to \$75. I am not referring to the large towns where the registration is in force and where the expense runs from \$300 to \$500, and as in the city of Toronto to \$3,000. The reason of that expense is this: The statute of Ontario provides that the clerk of the municipality shall be paid so much in respect to every appeal that is made. When the lists are prepared, there is no compulsion on the assessor to place the names of these manhood franchise men on the list at all. That is simply optional on his part. It is the duty of the assessor to assess all the property he sees, to get its ratable value for the purpose of raising taxes in the municipality; but there is no statutory duty imposed upon him of collecting the names of all the young men who are entitled to vote as manhood suffrage men. When these lists are prepared, then the work starts, and the candidates or the political organizations have to perfect them; and there is provision made in the Ontario statute by which the clerk is allowed 12 or 15 cents for every ap-

peal that is had. What is the result? I showed the other night that in some municipalities there are as many as 400 appeals. Then it is necessary to have certain stationery provided for these purposes, it is necessary to secure the attendance of certain witnesses, and the expenditure for all these things is forced on the municipality every year. Since the last local revision in the county of Simcoe there have been deep and strong protests on the part of the townships and local municipalities against being driven by the province to bear the expense of perfecting the lists for the provincial elections. How much more deep-seated will that complaint be when it is found that the Dominion will come along and harass the townships more than ever? The result will be that these unfortunate local municipalities will year in and year out be driven to large expenditures simply because the Dominion of Canada refuses to revise its own voters' lists.

Mr. CHARLTON. Will that increase the cost of the revision if it is done for provincial purposes?

Mr. BENNETT. Certainly. If the hon. gentleman could give an assurance that the Dominion and local elections would be held in the one year, one cost would suffice.

Mr. CHARLTON. Is there not a revision every year?

Mr. BENNETT. Certainly; but the hon. gentleman knows that while that revision is permitted by the law, neither he nor his brother, who is a member of the local House, go every year about the county revising the voters' list; because, if they did, the unpopularity of the Act would be so apparent. If my hon. friend was a candidate for the local House, and each year went through every township in his riding and forced upon each of them an expenditure of \$75, or in some cases upwards of \$100, he knows what a protest would arise from those municipalities. While there is a local revision permitted by law, there is not a revision as a matter of fact, because it would be so expensive for a candidate year in and year out to perfect the list; and so he waits until an election is impending, and then revises the voters' list for the township.

Mr. BURNETT. Is it not in the interest of the municipality to have a correct list?

Mr. BENNETT. It is, but the municipality does not compel the assessor to place manhood franchise men on the list at all.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). The hon. gentleman is more familiar with the law of Ontario than I am; but I would like to call his attention to this statement of the law as it has been given to me, and I would ask him to say whether it is correct or not: