

That is not true; we did not repeal the law. We merely extended the franchise to those who had left the employ of the Dominion Government, as will be seen by the next clause:

"All persons disqualified under the first section of the Act hereby amended, and whose names shall not have been inserted in the list or register of electors, by virtue of the fourth clause of the Act hereby amended, and whose names shall have been struck off in the manner prescribed in chapter 28 of the Acts of 1863, shall be entitled to vote at any election hereafter to be held in this Province: Provided, he shall have been discharged or ceased to be an employee under the first clause of the Act hereby amended, between the time of making up the final lists of electors and within thirty days before such election, on his taking the following oath:"

There we enfranchise the man who was disfranchised under the Bill, if he ceased to be an employé of the Dominion Government, and the hon. gentleman says we passed that Act in order to disfranchise certain parties whom we supposed would vote against the Dominion Government. The contrary, however, is the fact. It was unfair for the hon. member for Cardwell to quote from this Bill and make it appear that it was quite different from what it is. The hon. member for King's (Mr. Woodworth) told the House that a Bill which had been recently passed in the Local Legislature disfranchised a considerable number of the electors who were in favor of the National Policy. I am a little surprised at that statement; had the hon. member read the Bill he could not have made it. Now, I have a copy of the Bill here, and as I stated to the House some time ago, our qualifications of voters was confined to real estate and personal property. Those qualifications are, in the first place, incorporated into the Nova Scotia Bill; after that, every change is intended to enlarge the franchise; it does not disfranchise a man, and how the hon. member for King's could say that it disfranchised a certain number of men who were in favor of the National Policy is something I cannot understand, if he had read the Bill. I have looked pretty carefully into the proposed Act, now before the House, and tried to understand how it would affect Nova Scotia. It is well known that there are a considerable number of people in Nova Scotia who do not hold real estate, but who are largely interested in vessels. Vessel property, under our law, is liable to be assessed for half the value, and a considerable number of people have been placed on the list under this personal property qualification. This Bill will now disfranchise every one of them; but still we are told it is a very liberal Bill, calculated to give the franchise to a great many people who have it not at present. That may be the case in certain instances. I acknowledge that, in regard to the fishermen, it may increase the vote, but it will be to a very limited extent, because the Government do not even give the fishermen the right to vote upon a personal property qualification alone. The fisherman is obliged to have real estate, in the first place, and then he is allowed to add to the value of his real estate the amount of personal property he may have in a boat or vessel, in order to entitle him to a vote, so that none of these fishermen who have an interest in a vessel or a boat or fishing tackle of any kind are enfranchised by this Bill, unless they own real estate of some kind. As my hon. friend from Queen's, N.B. (Mr. King) has said, it may only be of the value of 25 cents, but it must be real estate of some kind. That I consider is a very objectionable feature in the Bill. The vessel-owning people of our Province are a very important portion of the population, and a class of men who are intelligent, and know how to use the franchise, and who ought not to be disfranchised by any Bill. In the Province of Nova Scotia the Bill will disfranchise a large number; in the Province of Prince Edward Island thousands must be disfranchised; in the Province of Manitoba and in the Province of British Columbia a large number will be disfranchised. Then, how is it possible for gentlemen to say that this is a general extension of the franchise, and should be accepted by the people? I do not know what object the

Mr. VAIL.

Government have in view in introducing this Bill. I can only imagine that it was to strengthen themselves, and I am really disposed to think that it was because of the fight that has been going on between the Local Government of Ontario and the Dominion Government for the last half a dozen years. It seems to me that all the other Provinces are to be sacrificed and to be put at great inconvenience for the sake of giving the Dominion Government an advantage over the Local Government of that Province, by making such a law as will enable them to return a majority of members for the Province of Ontario. Now, I am quite willing to give Ontario its full advantage in this Confederation. It is the largest Province; it is the most intelligent Province.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. VAIL. It is the most important Province in the Dominion, and I am quite willing that it should have every advantage to which it is entitled, but I deny the right of the Dominion Government to pass a law, which is calculated to enable and empower the Conservatives of the Province of Ontario to govern this Dominion for ever hereafter. I say that is the object of this Bill. The hon. the Secretary of State laughs. I ask how any man, being a representative of the Province of Quebec, who considers provincial rights of such paramount importance, can vote for a Bill which is intended to give the power to the Province of Ontario to rule this Dominion, and not the whole of the Province of Ontario, but the Conservative portion of the representatives of the Province of Ontario. If the Government could get the advantage by any kind of honest and fair play, I should say they were quite right in doing it; but to pass an Act of this kind, which is calculated to put the whole control in the hands of revisers, who will make use of it to perpetuate their power in this House, is a thing that no man of any independence, no matter from what Province he comes, ought to countenance for a moment. The Province of Nova Scotia is peculiarly situated. It was forced into this Dominion against its will. I will not go so far as to say it is kept in at the present time against its will; but, I am sorry to say, it is kept in against the will of a great many. It has suffered, in common with the other smaller Provinces of this Dominion, to an extent of which the larger Provinces know nothing, under this National Policy. I say it is criminal—perhaps that language is rather strong, and I do not wish to use unparliamentary language—but I say it is cruel for a Government to fasten on that Province any more hardships or deprive it of any more rights than it has been deprived of. I say it is unfair to that Province, to continue to legislate, as the Dominion of Canada has legislated for the last seven or eight years. Only a short time ago, since the Local House met, a resolution was introduced in favor of withdrawing from the Dominion. Now, this is not a pleasant state of things, and I think it would be wise for the Government of the day to consider if there is not some way by which they can make Nova Scotia satisfied in this Dominion; if there is, I believe they are bound to adopt it.

Mr. WOODWORTH. Give us more money.

Mr. VAIL. How much money have they had in the last year? It has been coming from the Province of Nova Scotia and going to the North-West, out of our reach altogether, and that is one of the reasons why Nova Scotia is in the financial state it is now. I do not wish to mention these things or refer to them more than is absolutely necessary; but, when I see the Government of this country, with a great majority behind them, determined to legislate in such a way as to make that portion of the Dominion more dissatisfied than it is at the present time, as a member of this Confederation, I think I am in duty bound to tell them so. There are several other features of this Bill which I have not referred to. There is the woman suffrage. I do