

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But it is only one place.

Mr. McINERNEY. It is at four places.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. At four booths.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If I understand the matter the local law provides that the polling shall take place at or near a certain place in the subdivision. This does not interfere with that, but, instead of having one polling booth in the place you will have two, three or four, as the number of voters on the lists may require. Therefore, the power of the returning officer, to which the hon. gentleman takes exception, is so limited that it is not possible to carry on the fraud that the hon. gentleman suggests.

Mr. McINERNEY. There has never been an election held under this law.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. What law? Why, surely the hon. gentleman is mistaken.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This law was passed in 1891.

Mr. McINERNEY. I say there never was an election held in the province of New Brunswick under that Act.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman is mistaken.

Mr. McINERNEY. I am not mistaken. I know what I am talking about—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Have you never had an election since 1891?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I was going to say that I have run two or three elections under it myself.

Mr. McINERNEY. Does the hon. Minister mean to tell me that in the local by-election in 1892 in which he came into Kent County, and in which his candidate alone received in the one parish of Wellington over 400 votes, and there were 900 votes on the list—

The PRIME MINISTER. What would the hon. Minister (Mr. Blair) have to do with that?

Mr. McINERNEY. He was the Attorney General of the province, and it was his business to see that the election was run according to the law.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. This became law in April, 1891.

Mr. McINERNEY. Yes, but when was it put in force, and what general election was ever run under it?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It was passed, and the elections must have been run under it.

Mr. McINERNEY. Not necessarily.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, necessarily.

Mr. McINERNEY. The law need not come into operation as soon as it is passed.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It came into operation at once.

Mr. McINERNEY. In many cases laws do not come into operation as soon as they are passed. I have stated the case with regard to the election of 1892, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) cannot deny it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I certainly have no knowledge of the circumstances—

Mr. McINERNEY. The hon. gentleman ought to know when he was there in Kent County and knew that 400 votes were cast for his one candidate in the parish of Wellington.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not remember whether anyone got that particular number of votes.

Mr. McINERNEY. You ought to remember it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Perhaps you may remember.

Mr. McINERNEY. I do remember it perfectly well; it was a matter of very considerable importance, and I do not know how it can have escaped the memory of the hon. gentleman. But I am not concerned with outrages in the province of New Brunswick against what ought to be the law. What I want is to try to make a law for the Dominion that will be in the interests of the people. If I were in the local legislature of New Brunswick, I would protest against such a law, and so far as I know it never was brought into force in the carrying on of any election.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman is absolutely in error.

Mr. McINERNEY. I am not in error. I was not in error a few moments ago when I stated a thing in contradiction to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair), and I am not in error now. He told me that he voted in the Dominion elections at a poll in the city of St. John because his name began with B and a gentleman whose name began with another letter voted in the same subdivision, and I have shown him that it could not be done under the Dominion law, and the Solicitor General substantiates what I say. Now, the hon. gentleman may contradict the statement that I make, and I say that my recollection on the subject is as clear as his and I am as likely to be right as he is. What I protest against in this provision is the tremendous power you are seeking to give to a political nominee just before an election, unrestricted by any person, to cut the list in