

control of the Liberal party, the Dominion government had sufficient confidence in having their sympathy and support.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am not aware, nor have I been advised, that any inconvenience has arisen in the province of Quebec. I know in former elections I have not been advised that any inconvenience arose in consequence of our making no provision for electors in unorganized districts.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Then why was Quebec mentioned in the original Bill?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not think there was any occasion for it. I am speaking so far as my own knowledge is concerned, and that, of course, is pretty general; because I have had charge of the elections for the last three occasions. I think there are only a couple of such divisions, but no inconvenience seems to have arisen, because the people in the districts managed the lists themselves. Since the last election, I quite recognize that there may be parts of Quebec where considerable population has gone in, owing to railway building, but my attention has never been called to any serious inconvenience likely to arise in Quebec.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The explanation is very lucid, and we may accept it as correct from the fact the hon. gentleman says he does not know anything about it—that he did not even know that the province of Quebec was included in the original Bill.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I knew that, I said I knew of no reason for it.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—There was no reason for it, because they could control it, I do not say improperly, by their own party organization. It is very strange that it is only the provinces that are now ruled by the Conservative party that were included in the original Bill. British Columbia they were obliged to abandon. The clauses relating to Manitoba were so altered and amended as to render the Bill to a very great unobjectionable. Originally it was intended in Manitoba that partisans appointed by

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

this government should perform the duty which the opposition in the House of Commons compelled them to relegate to the judges. That proposition was made by the hon. member for Algoma, when the Bill was first introduced six months ago; but it was rejected by the majority. Afterwards, they changed the provisions of the Bill so as to relegate that duty to the judges of the land, thereby restoring, to a very great extent, the confidence which the people have in the judges of the country. As soon as the clause relating to Manitoba came under the notice of the Manitoba government, the premier and Mr. Rogers at once came to Ottawa and had an interview with Sir Wilfrid Laurier. After the interview, Mr. Roblin returned to Manitoba with an assurance from the premier here that the clause relating to Manitoba would be changed, so as to leave the arrangement and changing of the voters' list with the judges, who would so perform the duty that the red line iniquity could not be repeated in the future. I give them credit for that. They left Quebec in a position to perform those iniquities, if they thought proper, that they charged against the Conservatives of Ontario. What has occurred in the province of Ontario since the Whitney government came into power that would justify them in suspecting that the local government would be guilty of any of the acts which have disgraced some portions of this country in the past in reference to the voters' lists? The only complaint against Ontario is that in one of the unorganized districts sufficient time was not given for a proper registration; but does any one suppose for a moment that if the same courtesy had been extended to the premier of Ontario that was shown to the premiers of the other provinces, and he had been consulted, that he would not have assured the premier of Canada that changes would be made in the law to prevent a recurrence of the difficulty that arose at the last election? These unorganized districts are of very recent existence. It is only since the discovery of silver at Cobalt and the construction of the Toronto and Northern Ontario Railway through northern Ontario that that portion of the country has been