

early in the *Gazette*; here I am to stand my trial, and so it will be with the last gentleman in the list. And so it will be with the last gentleman in the last *Gazette*; he will have his thirty days of anxiety. I suppose the only difference is that my anxious thirty days are over, and the others' are only beginning. However, I have not the slightest objection that all these papers should be brought down to-morrow.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Hastings). As my name was the first mentioned by the hon. member for Bothwell as having been returned to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, I wish to say that the returning officer of my riding is the registrar, a Reformer.

Mr. JONES. The hon. member who made this motion alluded to the Province from which he comes—the Province of Ontario. The right hon. leader of the Government, in the course of his observations, thought proper to refer to the hostility that he assumed was shown towards the General Government, not only by the Local Government, but by the officials under their control, in the Province of Nova Scotia. The right hon. gentleman must have a very short memory. Does he not remember that only last summer, while the Local elections were in progress in that Province, we had a visit from the hon. Minister of Marine, the hon. Minister of Finance of that day, and the hon. Minister of the Interior, who held public meetings throughout the Province, and what for?—

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). The elections were over long before.

Mr. JONES—They were there to endeavor to persuade the electors of Nova Scotia to vote against the Liberal Government of Nova Scotia; but, despite all their efforts, that Government was triumphantly sustained on that occasion. Therefore, when the right hon. gentleman says that the Administration were indebted to the Local Administration of Nova Scotia for their hostility, we can point to that occasion; and we can go further back, because there has scarcely ever been a Local election in the Province of Nova Scotia, but we have been favored with visits from members of the Dominion Ministry. The right hon. gentleman said they also had the open hostility of the returning officers. On that point, so far as my own county is concerned, I beg most respectfully to differ from him. In the county of Halifax, in the Local election, the sheriff, who was returning officer by virtue of his office, appointed one-half of the deputy returning officers from the Tory side of politics; and so fair was his conduct on that occasion, that when the Dominion elections came on last year, the General Government thought they could not place the election in fairer hands, and they sought to make a bargain with him. They sent down and said to him: "If you will give us one-half of the deputy returning officers in the county of Halifax, and submit a list of the Liberal deputy returning officers to a number of our friends, we will make you returning officer for the county of Halifax." The sheriff said that while he was a friend of ours, he purposed to carry out the law fairly, and he would give them one half of the deputy returning officers, but he would not submit the names of the Liberal deputy returning officers to them for their approval. Under these circumstances the election was conducted there; and that case goes to show that the contention of the right hon. gentleman is not borne out by the fact. But the subject my hon. friend has brought to the notice of the House was more strongly exemplified in the Province from which I come than possibly in any other part of this Dominion. The Minister of Finance, the Postmaster General, and Minister of Justice, I believe, had their elections at the same time as myself and all the other candidates in Nova Scotia; but, Sir, they had the good fortune to have sympathisers either in the returning officers or in some of the officials here—which I

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

leave to be decided when the papers are brought before the House. Their elections were gazetted on the 12th of March. The certificate of my election was sent from Halifax on the 4th of March, and I was not gazetted until fifteen days afterwards. Now, everybody must admit, that the circumstances hardly justified those hon. gentlemen in being gazetted so early. The elections were held on the 22nd of February, the declaration is usually filed six days subsequently, and the ballots are required to be kept four days longer in the event of recount being demanded; so that it was barely possible for those hon. gentlemen to be returned before that time. But it is easy to understand why they were gazetted so early; because their friends supposed they would have that much advantage over the other members, some of whom were not gazetted until the 2nd of April. They would have all that length of time to look over the field of action, and decide what course they would adopt. Therefore, I think the motion of my hon. friend is a very proper one. That a grave liberty has been taken with this House is evident. That the returns have been kept back cannot be denied, for the *Gazette* proves that hon. gentlemen who happened to be on the Government side of the House were gazetted far in advance of those who happened to be in Opposition. Such a state of things is simply unbearable. The hon. gentleman boasts of having been returned to the Treasury benches again. Well, perhaps, that may form the subject of debate at a later stage of the Session. Perhaps it would not be in order to-day to refer to the various causes which have contributed to the success of the hon. gentleman and his friends; but from the influences that were brought to bear in the Province of Nova Scotia, and which we shall expose before the Session is over, the public will be able to see whether the honest opinion of this country was fairly expressed, or whether their return was not secured by means which all honest electors in this country should condemn.

Mr. TUPPER. The hon. member for Halifax speaks of gentlemen on this side of the House having very short memories. I am afraid my hon. friend's recollection is slightly confused, owing, no doubt, to the excitement under which he seems to labor in consequence of the petitions to which he referred having been filed in some of the counties of Nova Scotia, notably in the county of Halifax. Now, I may point out to him and the House as well, that this supposed interference of the three Ministers with the provincial interests of Nova Scotia and the Government of that Province happened, strange to say, long after the so-called victory for repeal in June last. I should say my hon. friend ought to have recollected that fact, because, before they came to that Province—

Mr. JONES. Did not the hon. the Minister of Finance and the hon. the Minister of Justice speak in Halifax previous to the Local elections?

Mr. TUPPER. My hon. friend cannot get away in that manner. I speak of the reference to the visit of the three Ministers whom he named, the Minister of Marine (Mr. Foster), the Minister of Interior (Mr. White), and the late hon. Minister of Finance (Hon. A. W. McLellan), and I have no doubt that the hon. gentleman well recollects their visit and its consequences. Before their visit, the city of Halifax, by a large majority, voted confidence in the hon. gentleman (Mr. Jones) and the party with which he is identified; while, after their visit, the city of Halifax repudiated the hon. gentleman and showed by their votes that, on second thoughts, they believed the views of the three Ministers to be sound, and those of the hon. gentleman and his friends to be unsound and unworthy of trust. The hon. gentleman has stated that the Local Government is childlike and bland in all these Dominion elections, that these elections would be fairly carried out under the direction and management of officials acting under