

Mr. GILLIES. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) permit me.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Certainly.

Mr. GILLIES. How does my hon. friend explain this one line in the Act? This prescribes the manner in which the provincial lists shall be made up. Now, these are to be the lists for federal purposes if this Bill becomes law. The law says:

The following persons, being males of the full age of 21 years, subjects of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization, and not disqualified by any section of this Act, or otherwise by law prevented from voting,—

—shall be on the lists. Now the law says that Dominion officials cannot vote—there is no doubt about that. For the law says:

It shall not be lawful for any person to vote at an election for a member or members to represent the people in the general assembly of this province who at any time within fifteen days before the day of election, was in receipt of wages or emoluments of any kind as an employee of the post office, custom-house, inland revenue, lighthouse service, Government railroads, Crown lands office, or local public works and mines.

Here you say any person who, within 15 days before the election, is in receipt of any emolument of any kind from any of these sources, cannot vote. The law to-day says that whoever is prevented in any of these ways from voting, cannot go on the list.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The best answer I can give to that is that they do go on, and they are on. I state now that in the community in which I live we have very good Conservative lawyers and campaigners—

Mr. GILLIES. How can they go on?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman might as well ask me: How can he be in his seat there to-day? He is there. I see him there, and I know he is there. If he were to read me a thousand clauses in the statutes to show he was not there, I would still believe my own eyes.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman is a member of a Government who has brought a Bill down here, and the hon. gentleman has placed in that very Bill he has brought down the class of persons who, in Nova Scotia, are disqualified to vote. There it is, on page 7, and under the heading "Nova Scotia," which says: "Any one who, within 15 days before the election, was an employee or in the receipt of wages or emoluments of any kind as such employee in the post office," and so forth, and so forth. His own Bill declares that they shall not vote.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman must not imagine that he has made a point, because he has not. What we

have said repeatedly in discussion is that the Nova Scotia lists are to be applied to the Dominion elections; therefore the whole question is whether these officials have their names on the Nova Scotia lists.

Mr. FOSTER. This says they have not.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This does not say they have not, it says they can not vote. It has always been the case—I won't say always, that is too long, but I do say that for many years—within my observation, Dominion officials have their names on the local lists. I see them on in the city of Halifax where we have several hundred officials. I would probably not be wrong if I say there are three or four hundred Dominion officials there whose names appear on the lists. I can give my hon. friend several reasons why I know they are there. In the first place, I have seen them there, they are on the list. My hon. friend will understand that if they are on the list, and if that list is adopted, as we intend it shall be adopted, for Dominion purposes, then they have a right to vote.

Mr. McALISTER. Take the case of an alien who, under our law, cannot vote. Suppose he owns property in the Dominion of Canada and has his name on the Dominion list, would he be entitled to vote?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If his name is on the list, the only way you can prevent him from voting is by challenging him, and he can vote unless you can show some disqualification. Notwithstanding what my hon. friend has read, the Nova Scotia law has been understood for years to mean that the disqualification only arises at the polls, and with the knowledge of the disqualification, Dominion officials as a rule would not go to vote at a local election. When I say I know their names are on the list I can give my hon. friend various pieces of evidence in that direction. In the first place, I have seen their names on the list; in the second place, I know that in the party rooms, where they always get to the bottom of things, men are told off to go to the polls with a list of the Dominion officials and challenge them, so that they shall not vote. That is a proof that their names are on the list. My hon. friend says that they have no right to be there. I tell him that an experience of many years enables me to say that they have been there, and if his view is correct, no doubt that some of the sharp party campaigners in Halifax would long ago have found it out, and they would have taken very good care to have the law interpreted as he reads it.

Mr. GILLIES. The law distinctly says that whoever is prevented in any way by this section from voting, cannot go on the list. How can he get there?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He is there. It is the old story, we have already heard it here, of the lawyer who told a man