

placed on the Statute-books, that the people are chafing under it, and that, for that reason, the Act ought to be wiped out in toto.

Mr. CASEY. Hear, hear.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey) says, "Hear, hear." Well, I congratulate hon. gentlemen opposite on the improvement in their morals; I congratulate them on their change of heart. I congratulate them that they are now attempting to undo the harm they have done in the past and that they are now proposing under this Bill to give the revision of the lists to these very same county court judges whom they denounced, because, in forty-nine cases out of fifty the final revision of the list will be entrusted, under the authority of the municipal council, to the county court judges.

Therefore, the slander put forth was practically against the judges of the land, and surely could not be assumed to have been made against persons who might have been appointed revising officers, and I do not think they have been attacked any more than the judges. I do not think any hon. member will pretend to say that in this Act, as it stands to-day, there is a particle of party advantage in it. It is not, I repeat, a matter of party advantage we have to consider, but it is one of public utility. It is a question which we can afford to consider with respect to the general safety of the Parliament of Canada, and with a view to secure the vote of every British subject who has not been disqualified under the Act of any legislature; we can afford to consider the Bill on that ground, and I hope before a conclusion is arrived at we will meet on that common ground and frame a Bill on the lines I have indicated.

I come now to the question of expense, because that question as connected with the revision of the lists is practically all that divides the two political parties at this time. If hon. gentlemen opposite were desirous of perfecting a measure rather than of clamouring for the repeal of the present Act, if they were prepared to consider this subject on common ground, then the issue would be narrowed down to a question of expense. The hon. First Minister, in discussing the matter, stated, as an offset against the great cost involved by the revisions which took place at considerable intervals and which nevertheless involved an extremely large expense, that the cost would be entirely removed by handing over the preparation of the lists to the municipal and provincial authorities. The hon. gentleman went so far as to use the following words, which are very strong words, and to which much weight must be attached:—

I place myself in the judgment of the House when I say that the lists so prepared in Ontario, with the exception of the lists in the cities, do

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not cost a cent to the provincial treasury; the lists in Quebec do not cost a cent to the provincial treasury; and those lists in Ontario and Quebec do not cost a cent to individual members. They are prepared by the municipal councils without any expenditure.

I do not accuse the hon. gentleman of having deliberately made a statement of that kind, I do not believe he would do such a thing; but the hon. gentleman has spoken without that information which he should have possessed in order to guide him in making so strong a statement, that the revision would not cost the province one cent and would not cost the candidates a cent, but the whole work would be done by the municipal authorities. What is the fact in this connection? The list is prepared by the municipal councils throughout Ontario—and I am only speaking for that province. These municipal lists in nine cases out of ten are prepared for the purpose of municipal elections, and if any revision takes place it must be made by a county judge, and for the purpose of purging the list of all the inequalities and faults that will occur in lists prepared for municipal purposes. No one could say that lists prepared by the councils, if left at that stage and there was no provision made to go beyond that, would be non-partisan. Every hon. member who has had experience in Ontario is aware that the lists always take their colouring and political complexion from the clerks, assessors and councils, and those lists are loaded up in every case in this province with the names of persons who have no right to appear on the lists and have no vote. There are hundreds and thousands of men left off under such circumstances, while people possessing the right to vote should have their names on the lists. The preliminary revision of the lists by the municipal council is of the most loose description, and is only a very small measure towards the preparation of provincial or Dominion lists. No pretense is made to revise this municipal list except on the eve of an election. This is because it involves a very large charge to the candidates; and my own experience has been, and I have been engaged in revising the lists both under the Dominion franchise and under the provincial Act, that no hon. member who has placed the lists side by side with lists prepared under the present Franchise Act, would say that the cost to the candidates of revising the provincial lists could be made one farthing less than revising the Dominion lists. I am leaving outside the question as to whether the province or the Dominion should pay the expense, and I am dealing with the subject entirely from the position of the candidate who is undertaking to revise the lists. Suppose we have a provincial election. If the provincial and the Dominion election do not take place on the same year and on the same list, what follows? The Dominion member or candidate must in