

or a barrister of five years' standing, but "a proper person," and whom do we suppose the Government of Manitoba will appoint as a proper person but a Liberal partizan. According to this Act, I and other representatives from the Province of Manitoba would be subject to the decision of such a "proper person" as to who should be entitled to vote at our elections. I propose that the hon. gentleman who has charge of this Bill shall not inflict upon me such an injustice, but that I shall be elected by the voters on a list properly and fairly prepared. I defy any hon. gentleman on the other side to say that the list for my county was not fairly prepared as much in the interest of my opponent as in mine. My list contained 16,000 names, the third largest list in the Dominion of Canada, and my opponent had as much justice given to him as I had. I ask the member for Marquette (Mr. Watson) the only Liberal member from the Province of Manitoba, if he will dare to say that the revising officer in his constituency did not give him fair play. The hon. gentleman had so much regard for Judge Ryan, who was the revising officer in his constituency, that, although he was declared elected by a majority of 11, he asked for a recount before that judge, showing thus that he had perfect confidence in Judge Ryan. As to the list on which my hon. friend from Winnipeg was elected, I should like to know if that was not fairly prepared by Judge Ardagh; and it is the same in regard to the lists from one end of Manitoba to the other. Yet hon. gentlemen opposite, many of them barristers themselves, do not hesitate to charge judges who have been placed on the bench, to charge their professional brothers with not being fit for the office of revising officer. According to the hon. gentleman, they have the hardihood to say that I am to have my list prepared by "a proper person to be known as the registration clerk," and appointed by the Local Government of Manitoba. This Act goes further and says that these lists shall be revised by these very judges whom hon. gentlemen now pretend are not fit to act as revising officers. The Manitoba Act goes beyond that, and says not only shall county court judges revise the lists but barristers of three years' standing. The Dominion Act says that the revising officers shall be a judge or a barrister of five years' standing, but according to the Manitoba legislation the man to revise the list may be a barrister of three years' standing. In Manitoba we want none of such legislation as is proposed by the hon. gentleman to-night. Further, to show that the Liberal party of the Province of Manitoba are in favour of the Dominion Franchise Act, I may quote sub-clause 4 of clause 18 of the Bill, where it says:

"The registration clerk shall obtain a certified copy, or certified copies, of the last revised list, or lists, of electors in such electoral division, or part of the same, for municipal, local or Dominion parliamentary purposes."

The Act passed by the Reform Government of the Province of Manitoba pronounces that the "Dominion parliamentary" list is one that the registration clerks can take as properly prepared. That is a pronouncement in favour of the Dominion Franchise Act. Further, it says:

"After the date of the closing of the list, the same shall be open to the inspection of any person asking to inspect the same. Before the date of the closing of the list, the registration clerk shall be bound to inform any person enquiring of him, at his office, whether or not he has

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placed any particular person on the list. Any person so inspecting said list may make a copy of the whole or any part thereof."

Then we find by a further provision that this judge or the barrister of three years' standing who is to be appointed to revise the list, shall revise the list not less than two weeks after the day fixed for the closing of the list by the registration clerk, and according to clause 16 the registration clerk is to close the list not less than two weeks from the date of the proclamation. There are some constituencies in Manitoba 36 miles square, without any railway communication, and you can easily understand what possibility there would be, under such circumstances, of putting names on the list. By clause 22 it is provided that the registration clerk shall furnish copies of the printed list for any person applying for the same for a fee of not more than 20 cents for each copy:

"Provided that such registration clerk must retain a sufficient number of copies of said printed lists for the purpose required by this Act. Such list shall be printed in time for the court of revision, if possible; but such court of revision shall be held whether such list has been printed or not."

I ask hon. gentlemen to bear in mind that the man who is to revise the lists is "a proper person" appointed by the Government, that is, a political partisan; that he has two weeks in which to prepare the list, and that he is not absolutely required to print the list before the court of revision; and then I ask hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, from the experience they have had of hon. gentlemen on the other side, what fairness they would expect from a partisan appointed by a Reform Government under such circumstances. It seems to me the most ridiculous contention in the world that there is anything wrong with the Dominion Franchise Act. We in Manitoba have had every possible hardship in getting names upon the list, and I would ask those hon. gentlemen, if they are fair men, if they are the free men they say they are, if they are desirous of having every man in the Dominion exercise his franchise, to realize that in Manitoba they do not get anything like the freedom under the Provincial Act that they do under the Dominion Franchise Act, because in Manitoba that practically means manhood suffrage. We have no man in the Province of Manitoba, who is a British subject and over twenty-one years of age, who has not the right to vote under the Dominion Franchise Act, because I am glad to say that we are sufficiently prosperous in that Province to insure that every man can earn \$300 a year and so has a right to be on the list. That is practically manhood suffrage for Manitoba under the Dominion Franchise Act, and the people are not surrounded with the difficulties which the local Act provides. We find that the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) in the third clause of his Bill says:

"3. The returning officers, deputy returning officers, poll clerks and other officials hereafter to be appointed for the purpose of conducting and holding elections of members for the House of Commons of Canada, shall have the same powers and authority as the returning officers, deputy returning officers and other officials in the several provinces comprising the Dominion of Canada now have under the election law now in force in each of such provinces respectively."

I will call the attention of the promoter of this Bill to clause 125 of the Electoral Franchise Act of the Province of Manitoba under which clause I and other representatives from that Province are sup-