

Application is open to both sides, and if the enumerator adds to that list names to which either side objects, the objector may carry the matter before the county judge. The war is over this: both sides say that when the list comes before the county judge the applicant has the labouring oar and must prepare the evidence for the county judge. I cannot see any substance in this objection, because when the list comes before the county judge the appellant must present his evidence, truly; but the respondent must also come there with his evidence. There is no additional expense: there is no expense on the appellant which would not have been on him if he had been the respondent; there is no expense on the respondent which would not have been on him if he were the appellant.

I am not saying more at the moment about the agreement; but in my judgment the honourable gentleman from De Sa'aberry (Hon. Mr. Béique) is quite wrong when he says that it is left to the Government to stuff these lists. I have just enough confidence in my opponents in political matters not to leave them any more discretion than I can help; and I think my opponents are equally justified in giving me as little discretion as they are compelled to do. But let us study this for a moment. The Solicitor General, it is said, laid down in the House of Commons as a principle that the lists of the provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec should not be interfered with. But after the Solicitor General had delivered himself of this speech, the Conservative members from the province of Nova Scotia demurred. They said: "It is quite reasonable for you to adopt this principle in so far as it affects Ontario and Quebec, because in those provinces the revision of the voters' lists is by a judge, and the reviser has the confidence of both sides in politics, but in the province of Nova Scotia a different condition obtains. We have for years, session after session, asked the powers that be in the province of Nova Scotia to substitute for the sheriff, who is their officer and a partisan, the county judge, who dwells in a higher atmosphere and is free from political affiliations; and they have so often absolutely and flatly refused, although they knew that throughout the Dominion of Canada Liberals and Conservatives alike were willing to have their lists settled by the judicial officer." And they said: "As a consequence of these lists being finally settled by a partisan offi-

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cer, we have not received fair treatment and the lists have not represented the electorate honestly and honourably; we object to it." They protested so strongly and brought forward so many facts that they have induced the Government to believe, and the Government does believe, that there is substance in their objection and that the lists in Nova Scotia should not be treated on the same basis as the lists in the other provinces.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Would the honourable gentleman give us any explanation as to why all this was not said by the Conservative members in the House of Commons when this Bill was under discussion?

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUTON: I am not a diviner and I cannot tell my honourable friend the reason, because I was not in the House of Commons and I have no information of what occurred in that House.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: It was not disclosed in the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUTON: All I can say is that these facts have been brought to the notice of the Government, and, upon this condition being disclosed, this amendment has been offered in this House. As to whether it should have been brought up in the other House or not, I have nothing to say.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: The honourable gentleman mentioned New Brunswick. I should like to know the attitude of those who attended the conference as regards New Brunswick?

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUTON: So far as New Brunswick is concerned, there has been no objection raised.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUTON: I am told there is no objection raised. We are frying other fish at the present moment. It is conceded by the Liberals of Nova Scotia that the Conservatives of Nova Scotia have made out some sort of case anyway, because they say, "Admitting that our reviser, the sheriff, is a partisan, we will give you the right to appeal." They do not for a moment admit, they have most forcibly denied, that the sheriff in any case has acted improperly. They say that in any constituency you can count on your fingers the appeals which have taken place in years; they say that in many cases the sheriff has been appointed the returning officer by the Conservative Dominion Government;