

these monstrous things occur there. The list is made under the Act, yet carrying out the intention of this legislature, with universal consent, large numbers of persons are prevented from voting though their names are on the lists. And so these Dominion employees names are upon the voters' lists, and they vote, unless within 15 days of the election they continue to hold these Dominion offices. And there is nothing immoral, outrageous, or unjust, or monstrous in the fact that they should be upon the voters' lists, and yet when the day of voting comes they should, for good cause moving the legislature to that end, be deprived of the right to vote. This franchise law which we are trying to repeal, as I say, has embodied in it the same principle. The list for the Dominion election is made up, but when the day of voting arrives large numbers of persons whose names are upon the lists are refused this great and glorious privilege of voting which the ex-Minister of Finance is never tired of eulogizing. Who, under either circumstances, would be more readily accorded the vote than our judges? Who are more worthy of eulogies as to their intelligence, their patriotism and the other qualities of which the hon. gentleman speaks, than the judges in our courts? And yet, for reasons that seem sufficient to Parliament, they are not allowed to vote. And the same is true of revising officers, and returning officers, and election clerks, and a large number of other persons. It may be open to question, it may be debatable, whether Parliament was altogether wise in preventing some of these persons from voting, and that is a question that may well be debated and settled in Parliament.

The principle of refusing persons the privilege of voting, either because they have been bribed or because they hold positions which seemed to the Nova Scotia Parliament incompatible with the right of voting, certainly does not render the Act liable to all those violent charges which the ex-Minister of Finance has made against it; consequently the superstructure which he built upon the assumed injustice of the Nova Scotia Act falls to the ground. The legislature of Nova Scotia, for its own wise purposes, may have thought it improper that in the local election certain Dominion officials should have the right to vote. With that we have nothing to do here. It is purely an academic question, which can be best settled upon the floor of the Nova Scotia legislature. But no one upon this side of the House contends that we would be doing right to prevent that class of voters from voting for representatives to the Dominion Parliament, and we have offered, and we offer now, to make that point clear. I

trust that the time of the committee will not be taken up by objurgations and re-primations as to a purely local Act, which is strongly supported in Nova Scotia, and has been sanctioned there in election after election.

Mr. McDOUGALL. The hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Flint), undertook to lead the House to believe that the universal practise in the province of Nova Scotia in carrying out the franchise law that existed previous to the adoption of the present franchise law, was to use the same lists for Dominion and local elections. Now, Mr. Chairman, I have had some experience as a reviser and as a municipal councillor in connection with the county sessions that had to do with the appointment of the officials who were revising the lists under those Acts. We revised the lists from the assessment rolls, under the qualifications stated in the statute. We made two separate and distinct voters' lists: one excepting the names of the Dominion officials who were not permitted to vote at local elections, and the other for Dominion election purposes, containing the names of all those who were qualified under the statute, and not disqualified by reason of holding office. These lists, after being taken from the basis of the assessment roll, were posted up, and notice was given to anybody who was displeased with the voters' lists, who wanted to add any names, or who wanted to object to any names, attended on a certain day fixed by the revisers for the purpose of hearing appeals. The two separate lists were then completed, after the revisers had given a hearing in this way. When the elections were held, the list with the heading "List of electors qualified to vote at Dominion elections," was used at the Dominion elections, and the list of electors qualified to vote at elections for members to the provincial Assembly was used for that purpose. So we had the two lists. The counties, they were counties before they were incorporated into municipalities, paid for the expense of making those two different lists. Now, my hon. friend from Inverness (Mr. McLennan) told the House that the revisers in his county made only one list, and received all the names that were presented to them, in addition to those that were taken off the assessment roll under the property qualifications. He says they took all the names that were submitted, but were unable to tell who should be struck off or who should be put on, were unable to say who held an office under the Dominion Government or who did not. Now those revisers had to make an affidavit, and for the information of the committee I will read that affidavit: