

Notwithstanding any omissions, errors or irregularities in the preparation of such rolls or lists, or in any of the proceedings in connection therewith.

Thereby giving the rolls as they existed in their mutilated state, in their iniquitous state, a legal existence. The Act of 1880 had to be passed, the very same Act had to be passed in 1881, the very same Act had to be passed in 1882, and still the hon. member for Antigonish comes before this House and says that he knows nothing about any of these iniquities. That may be, but other people know about them, and the legislature of Nova Scotia knows about them. I do not wish to prolong this discussion, but I feel that it is incumbent on us to understand whether this anti-Canadian element in the Cabinet is going to bud and blossom out as it has on the Statute-book of the province of Nova Scotia and in this Parliament heretofore. It did so bud and blossom out when the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was in power here. Now we see the commencement of the same budding and blossoming in this Parliament. The Bill exhibits the cloven foot Act and, to use an expression that has been bandied backwards and forward in this House, the question is whether that cloven foot Act is going to be crystallized into law. That is what we want to know.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. BENNETT. Since the adoption of the principle of this Bill was approved by a majority of this House, the only question now before it, as I understand, is: first, to endeavour to frame a Bill, which will, as far as possible, meet the wishes of hon. gentlemen on either side of the House, in this, that first, there will be honesty in the preparation of the election list, with a view to carrying on the elections in a proper manner; and second, the question of cost to the country. The second proposition, however, is a very minor one compared to the former, that of honesty in elections. I should have imagined from the amount of discussion that has preceded this Bill there would be to-day in the House when this Bill is going into committee some of the representatives of the Cabinet from Ontario besides the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I presume, however, the Postmaster General is whetting his appetite by dismissing a couple of country postmasters before dinner, one of his usual indulgences; and as regards the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Pater-son), the hon. Minister of Customs, I presume, after the result of the local election in North Grey the other day, the hon. gentleman is wondering where he will be able to find some place to rest the soles of his feet, after having been driven out of the riding he represented so many years and at last

found a temporary abiding place in North Grey. However, I am glad the Minister of Trade and Commerce is here, for, to borrow a phrase used by that hon. gentleman during the last Parliament when referring to Ministers on the other side of the House, then the Conservative side, I admire him most of the "whole gang," because I know the hon. gentleman has a high sense of honour. I am glad also that the hon. Solicitor General is here, because I believe the Solicitor General has a high sense of honour, and I would prefer to direct my remarks to those two gentlemen, together with the Minister of Inland Revenue, whom I highly esteem and respect, because I think from those three gentlemen we will get a much fairer measure than we would obtain, if I may be allowed to use the phrase, from the rest of the gang. An hon. member mentions the name of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I might hope something from him, but not a great deal. I know that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries comes from the maritime provinces, and if all can be believed that is stated in the House as regards the manipulation of the voters' lists in those provinces one cannot help but think that those hon. gentlemen will cling to the old love, and when an opportunity is given to take a party advantage, they will take it, and with a vengeance, too. I propose to direct my remarks to the Bill with a view to obtaining something like a semblance of honesty and of justice. The Bill, as it stands to-day, has not a semblance of honesty or justice. The Bill itself and every law in the Statute-book are all right; but it is the administration of the law that always brings about its condemnation, and if I can prove to the distinguished trio to whom I particularly address myself that this Bill which is to-day before the House offers to give to party partisans every despicable and contemptible advantage, then I say a change of radical nature should be brought about. In the preparation of the old Dominion list there was this to be said, that when an elector went to the polling place on polling day he had known that his name was on the list even six months before, and he was satisfied that he had a perfect right to vote on that occasion. Hon. gentlemen know what the Dominion list was. It was a list plainly printed; the name of every voter entitled to vote was there; there was no out-scoring of names, and no interlineation of any names, and at least a month or six weeks before polling took place an elector knew that his name was on the list and that he would be given an opportunity to vote. But this Bill, if it goes into force, gives no such assurance, and no voter will know until he tenders his vote whether he will be permitted to vote, and I shall prove that conclusively from the local voters' lists. If the hon. gentleman will refer to section 6 of the Bill he will find as follows:—

Forthwith after the receipt of the writ for a Dominion election, the returning officer shall