

ground for his being charged with sympathy for the Liberals that he rather leaned the other way. No matter what may be said in a corner, I am prepared to say this. I have had a good deal to do with elections for a great many years—not as much of late as when I was younger—and practically no substantial complaint has been made with respect to the lists of Nova Scotia. Under those lists Conservative members have been elected to the provincial legislature and Conservative members have been elected to the House of Commons, and none of the gentlemen who have been defeated have ever complained, or undertaken to establish any complaint, against the lists of Nova Scotia. That is the condition in the province of Nova Scotia. The lists are prepared with the greatest care and the utmost impartiality, and opportunity is given for the most careful scrutiny and correction; and yet, when an election for the Dominion is about to be held, you do not say as to Nova Scotia as you said as to New Brunswick and Quebec and Ontario, that the provincial lists shall form the basis of the new electoral lists, but you practically give these enumerators who are appointed by the Government the right to frame completely new lists.

The charge made by the honourable gentleman from Middleton, who moved this amendment, was that sometimes the sheriffs were partisans; and, in order to get rid of the little shade of partisanship that might possibly creep in because the sheriff, the officer to whom an appeal is taken, might be a friend of the Liberal party, he undertakes to place all the electoral lists in the province in the hands of men who are appointed directly by the Government to make up the lists—a Government going to the country on a mighty bad record, by the way. I am astonished that any honourable members of this House should be in favour of dealing with the province of Nova Scotia in any way different from that in which they deal with the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

The amendment introduced by the honourable gentleman from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Béique) accepts the employment of the enumerator, but simply provides that the enumerator shall base his list on the carefully-prepared provincial lists, and that there shall be an appeal from the decision of the enumerator to the county judge or to a judge of the Supreme Court, as the case may be. I really cannot understand how any honourable gentleman having re-

gard for the good name of Canada could be a party to such a transaction as that which is proposed.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I have listened with a great deal of attention to this discussion, and it seems to me that it is being kept at a pretty low level. There are very few large, national ideas in it—or absolutely none. The outstanding feature of this discussion is that an irresponsible body, called the Senate of Canada, is undertaking to build foundations for responsible Government in the House of Commons. An irresponsible body such as the Senate of Canada has been yesterday and is to-day, and will probably be until the 7th of October, undertaking to make foundation for responsible Government in the House of Commons. I am not proud of the position. It is none of our business to interfere with the fundamental rights of responsible Government. This discussion about picayune matters, about revising officers, and this and that, does not appeal to me.

If I had a suggestion to make—I was not called into the conference; probably it would have been a success if I had attended it—I would have proposed, and probably I would propose yet, that this whole matter be referred back to the House of Commons for their deliberation instead of ours. Would the honourable leader of the Government accept that?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes. After we pass this, it will go back to the House of Commons for their concurrence.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: That all this matter be referred back to where it belongs—to the House of Commons for further consideration and action thereon, instead of half-a-dozen honourable senators going into a room and wasting time in trying to settle a little, picayune matter regarding representation on the floor of the House of Commons, not interfering in the least with our right or our responsibility. What also surprised me was that such a bright legal mind as that possessed by the honourable senator from Middleton, Nova Scotia (Hon. W. B. Ross), should have consented to accept this brief. Of course, I know professional duty obliges an attorney to accept a brief when he is asked, especially in criminal cases. The honourable senator from Middleton, to my mind, casts lustre on this House from the point of view of intelligence, fair-mindedness and uprightness. I think he is one of the fairest-minded on the other side of