

bers opposite, and we went a long way. We made a suggestion which we reduced to writing and we brought it down to the House and I for one would have agreed to it at that time; but no sooner was it recommended, or brought before the House as a suggestion, than my hon. friend from West Middlesex (Mr. Ross) began to object. Then an hon. member from Quebec took exception, and so it was. It seemed to please nobody, and we withdrew it. Now we stick by the Bill as it was originally introduced, with the single exception in regard to the Ontario municipal lists. Well, I cannot add anything to the discussion which took place in committee. We went over it time and again, it was argued from every point of view, and the committee deliberately determined to reject my hon. friend's proposal. He has added nothing to it to-night, and I can only ask the House to reject it upon this occasion.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Shelburne and Queen's): My hon. friend states that in preparing his Bill, he took as a model the legislation of Saskatchewan. The leader of the Opposition in preparing this amendment has taken as a model the words of the Minister of Militia (Mr. Guthrie).

Mr. GUTHRIE: As I have explained the matter.

Mr. FIELDING: There was a conference.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes.

Mr. FIELDING: The Bill, which was manifestly partisan in its purpose, was considered at that conference, and we made it so clear to the hon. gentleman that his Bill was partisan that he came to an agreement with respect to the lists of the province of Nova Scotia which applies also to other provinces to some extent. He has repudiated that agreement. He has, I claim, been guilty of a breach of faith in respect of the treatment of those lists.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. FIELDING: What is wrong?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Mr. Speaker, I emphatically deny that I have been guilty of any breach of faith. My hon. friend has no right to make any such statement.

Mr. DAVIDSON: Take it back.

Mr. FIELDING: I had prepared and placed in the hands of my hon. friend an amendment respecting the lists of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In that amendment I had particularly referred to Nova Scotia, but at the request of hon. gentlemen from New Brunswick I had included that

province in it because I was told the lists in the latter province were the same. The Minister of Militia told me he was prepared to accept that amendment if I would strike out some words from it. What were the words? The words were "that the provincial lists were to be treated as final." The hon. gentleman said "If you will agree to accept the other provisions of the Bill we can take your amendment." "What is the provision?" I asked. The hon. gentleman said there was a provision that if in urban districts anybody had been left off, he could go to the County Judge and make application to get his name on. "There is no objection to that" I said. "Then there is a provision that a man whose name is left off can go to the poll on election day and in company with two witnesses"—I believe the provision has since been changed to require only one witness—"he can swear to his right to vote and to get his name put on the list and vote." "A have no objection to that", I said, "Though I think it is unnecessary".

Now then, as to the merits of the question.

The Nova Scotia lists are not 10 p.m. prepared by partisans. Again and again the minister, at the dictation of somebody else, has made the statement that they are. It is not founded on fact; the Nova Scotia lists are prepared by the municipal councils. The municipal councils are composed of the average man in Nova Scotia, Grit and Tory alike, but they are not partisan bodies any more than they are in any other parts of the country. These lists are posted up and every opportunity is given to put on names. There is a provision respecting an appeal to the sheriff which is very little used. I believe the records show that very few appeals are made to the sheriff; but if there is a man left off that list he has the right to go to the poll on election day, swear to his qualification, and cast his vote. What more can you ask? By having two lists you are putting the people of the country to the annoyance and the trouble which is always connected with the preparation of an election list. What the hon. gentleman is doing in this case is this: He is creating an army of partisans, "registrars" he calls them, to add names to, and strike names off, lists which are as nearly perfect as anything can be. If there is any imperfection the machinery which the hon. gentleman proposed, and which we have been willing to accept, gives the two chances to make it good; the man in the urban district has the right to go to the county judge, and the man in the