

cept under the direction of Dominion officials, for we cannot compel municipal authorities to frame lists at our dictation, and this is the radical defect of a uniform system, and one reason that made me give up the idea as one that is not practicable. You cannot secure it without having Dominion officials to compile the lists, and whenever you have those officials, you have Government interference and the evils we have complained of under the present system. The question of expense I will come to later. I should be very glad to see, if possible, a system of uniform manhood suffrage, one man one vote, registration up to the last day possible before the elections; but for the reasons I have pointed out, I believe such a system to be thoroughly impracticable without bringing in the worst evils of which we have complained under the present system.

Defects have been alleged in certain of the provincial systems in the preparation of the voters' lists. If there is some discrepancy, whose fault is it? It is the fault of the electors of the particular province. How are the defects to be cured? By the action of the electors when found out. What will cure them? The very fact that these lists are going to be used for Dominion as well as provincial purposes will go far towards effecting a cure. The fact that the Ontario lists were used for Dominion elections led to a great improvement in the method of compiling the provincial lists in that province. If there were defects, they would be much more likely to be pointed out and removed when there were two sets of candidates, the candidates for the local legislature and the candidates for the Dominion Parliament to look after them.

I do not propose to follow the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) in all his attacks on the franchise of Ontario. Such an attack comes with all the less grace from the hon. gentleman, because he is largely responsible for that system as a former ornament of the Opposition in that legislature; and I have yet to learn that for some years back the Opposition in that legislature proposed any material change in the Franchise Act of Ontario, pointing in the direction which the hon. gentleman has advocated.

Mr. CLANCY. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will pardon me for a moment. I made no attack on the provincial franchise. I simply pointed out that it could not be made applicable to this Bill.

Mr. CASEY. I did not so consider the hon. gentleman's remarks. I considered that the hon. gentleman made a distinct attack on the system of Ontario. He alleged that it disfranchised a great many people, that a great many voters did not get their names on the lists, and that its adoption would be unfair to candidates at Dominion elections.

Mr. CASEY.

Mr. CLANCY. No, I did not say so.

Mr. CASEY. I took notes of his words to that effect, and I find fault with the hon. gentleman because he did not urge these points in the Ontario House. But coming to the question of expense, I must refer to the very disingenuous attempt on his part to misrepresent the position taken by the right hon. Premier in comparing the expense under a Dominion and a provincial franchise system. The right hon. gentleman stated that the provincial lists of Ontario cost nothing to the provincial treasury, nor to individuals. I think my hon. friend is perfectly correct. Nothing is paid by the Government for the preparation of the lists, the individual pays nothing, except such an amount as he is called upon to pay as a taxpayer in a municipality.

But my hon. friend (Mr. Clancy) sought to make it appear that the Prime Minister said it cost the candidate nothing to have these lists revised. Nobody said anything of the kind. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) was putting up a man of straw and knocking him down; nobody ever pretended that it would not cost the candidate something to have the voters' lists revised on the eve of an election. What the Prime Minister did maintain, and what is glaringly true is this: that whereas every revision of the Dominion lists has cost the country something over a quarter million dollars, the annual compilation and revision of the voters' lists used for provincial purposes cost the province as a province nothing, and cost the voters of the country nothing, except the small cost incident to both parties when an election is just in view. That cost is not for the revision of the lists, it is not for the making of the lists; it is merely in connection with appeals made to the judge from the revised lists, and whatever cost there may be in that respect falls equally on both parties, Conservatives and Liberals alike. There is no such state of things as exists under the Dominion law, where the list is packed in advance in favour of one party, and where all the expense of revising it has to fall on the other.

Mr. BENNETT. May I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey): Are the county court judges paid special fees by the province of Ontario for revising these local lists?

Mr. CASEY. I really must ask a legal friend whether there is any fee paid to the judge for revision.

Mr. BENNETT. You said there was not.

An hon. MEMBER. They are paid.

Mr. CASEY. The sitting of the court for two or three days may cost a few dollars to the province, but I was speaking of the compiling of the list in the ordinary way, which costs neither the provincial government nor the individual voter anything. Of course, if there is litigation about a