

Court. That revision, made under the control of the judges of our Superior Court, is very much more perfect, very much more exempt from the objections that might be urged against the old system, than the condition of things that exists with the revising barristers. I think the judges of our Superior Court in Quebec—and I speak of them with some knowledge—are in a position to do good service, and any revision made by them will commend itself to all honest and fair-minded men in this House.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That desirable condition of things does not exist in some of the provinces.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand the hon. gentleman refers probably to the province of Nova Scotia, and perhaps Manitoba; therefore, I speak with some diffidence on this point. But those are matters of detail that we will have occasion to consider when we come to discuss the Bill. For the convenience of members, I do not intend to debate the Bill at any greater length, but merely to state its principles.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It might save a good deal of discussion in the future if the hon. gentleman will allow me to ask a question. I understand from the hon. gentleman's remarks that the appeal is made to a judge of some court, which is a very desirable thing in making the list. I take it from the tenor of his remarks that that is the principle upon which he feels inclined to go.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think my hon. friend thoroughly took in what I said about it. I was speaking of the conditions existing in my own province; and I think in the province of Quebec any revision of the list which would be made before a judge of the Superior Court—and I speak with intimate knowledge of the great majority of these judges—would commend itself to any fair-minded man having anything to do with those lists.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Quite so. The hon. gentleman spoke so highly of a reference to the judges that I thought he would not deny it to the other provinces.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No doubt, as a matter of inference, my remark would apply to the other provinces, but I was speaking from practical knowledge of my own province. For the convenience of members I have prepared an analysis of the Bill, pointing out the changes which it makes in the existing system. As the analysis is somewhat lengthy, I will hand it to the "Hansard" without reading it, if there is no objection.

Mr. CASEY. Hand it to the "Hansard."

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Hon. gentlemen having this before them, will see at a glance what changes are made, and the

reasons for those changes in each section. If the House will permit me, I will hand it in to the "Hansard" so that hon. members may have it in that way.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

(The following is the analysis handed in by the Solicitor General):—

Schedule three is a list of the Acts repealed. It will be seen that these are the Electoral Franchise Act and the amendments thereto; the North-west Representation Act and the amendments thereto, with certain exceptions; the Dominion Elections Act and the amendments thereto, and certain other Acts relating to elections. It will be observed that there is a printer's error in this schedule. Sections 2 and 3 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, chapter 7, are the sections defining the electoral districts in the Territories, and these should not be repealed.

The following clauses are reproductions, without substantial change, excepting in the order and arrangement of the sections, of corresponding provisions in the existing law. Clause 4, b, 8-11, 14-21, 30-32, 34, 36-38, 40-46, 49-63, 63-67, 77, 78, 80, 82, 84, 84-89, 90A, 91, 93-115, 118-125, 127-130, 133-135, 137, 141, 144, 145, 147, 151, 152, 154.

Taking up in their order the several clauses in which there are changes from the existing law, we have clause 3, Interpretation. Paragraphs (a), (b), (d), and (e) are taken from Sir John Thompson's Bill (No. 143) of 1894.

The sections of the Act providing for the adoption of the provincial qualifications for voters, voters' lists and polling divisions render these definitions necessary.

The necessity for the other new definitions will be seen when the Bill is examined in detail.

Clause 7 adopts generally, but subject to the provisions of the Bill thereafter contained, the provincial qualifications for voters.

Clause 13 defines, as at present, the persons who are disqualified to act as election officers, with the addition of persons disfranchised under the Act of 1894 for bribery.

Clause 22 is substantially a re-enactment of the provision cited from the Act of 1874 (section 29), requiring the returning officer to procure provincial voters' lists, &c. (See clause 4 of departmental draft.)

Clause 23 adopts generally the provincial polling divisions. (See clauses 27, 28 and 29.)

Clause 24 adopts generally the provincial voters' lists, subject, however, to the subsequent provisions of the Bill. (See clauses 25, 27.)

Clause 25 provides that, where there are no lists for provincial elections, there shall be none for Dominion elections.

Clause 27.—Where no polling divisions under the law of the province, but polling places and voters' lists for such places, these shall be used at Dominion elections also. (Clause 6, departmental draft; and see Ontario Act, 56, cap. 4, as to Algoma East and West, and the British Columbia Act, C.S., B.C., c. 39, ss. 9-12.)

Clause 28.—Returning officer to constitute polling divisions and fix polling places, where he is required to do so under provincial laws. (See departmental draft, clause 3 (e), and Ontario Election Act, section 56, and Prince Edward Island Act, 53 Vic., c. 1, s. 22.)

Clause 29 provides for a case where a provincial polling district is not wholly in electoral district, and is taken from the Ontario Act cited. (And see departmental draft, clause 5.)

Clause 33.—As to the Nomination. Subsections 1 and 2 are a re-enactment of the section cited,