

Mr. MILLS. No.

Mr. FLINT. It was not my intention then, nor is it my intention now, to enter into a discussion of that question.

Mr. GILLIES. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question? Section 9 of the Act of 1889 is still in force, and that section prescribes the manner in which the electoral lists of Nova Scotia shall be made up by the reviser. It states what persons shall be entitled to vote and what persons shall be put upon the lists. And who are they? The following persons shall be put upon the lists:

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The voters' list.

Mr. GILLIES. Yes.

The following persons, if of the full age of twenty-one years and subjects of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization, and not disqualified by any action of this Act or otherwise by law prevented from voting—

Well, now the Dominion official is prevented from voting.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). No, not absolutely.

Mr. GILLIES. They are disqualified.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They are prevented.

Mr. COCHRANE. They could not be prevented if they were not disqualified.

Mr. GILLIES. My hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) does not understand it, and he has admitted it, and I am sure, will admit it now, that the Dominion officials are disqualified from voting. The section says that any person who is in receipt of pay from any of these departments within 15 days of the election.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Ah, within 15 days.

Mr. GILLIES. No person receiving pay from the Government within 15 days of the election is permitted to vote—he is disqualified. My hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) will admit that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think he is, he is prevented from voting under the local Act. If my hon. friend will allow me, he is continually confusing the Voters' List Act with the Election Act. What we touch here is the Voters' List Act. The election Act of the province we do not adopt. There is the confusion in the minds of hon. gentlemen.

Mr. GILLIES. You are adopting the election Act.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No.

Mr. GILLIES. Well, or of course we are making the Franchise Act here; we are

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

making a Franchise Act for the Dominion—

Mr. FLINT. Mr. Chairman, I have the floor.

Mr. GILLIES. If my hon. friend (Mr. Flint) will allow me one moment—

Mr. FLINT. I have the floor. I yielded the floor to the hon. gentleman for Richmond (Mr. Gillies), but I want to know my status before the committee. I yielded the floor to answer a question of the hon. member for Richmond, but he seems to have forgotten that and addresses his remarks to somebody else. If he will address his remarks to me, I will try to answer him.

Mr. GILLIES. Section 9 of the Act of 1889, under which the provincial lists are made up, states who are eligible to go on the lists, and no others can go on, now is that correct?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. GILLIES. And it is provided that any person in receipt of emolument from the Dominion Government within 15 days of the date of the election cannot vote. Very well. This section says that any person prevented from voting cannot go on the lists.

Mr. FLINT. I understand the hon. gentleman asks me a question. I would frankly admit that there is a basis for argument and difference of opinion. But I will go further and say that, as a matter of fact in the province of Nova Scotia the opinion always has been held and the practice always has been that these persons are entered upon the lists, even though they may be prevented from voting if they hold one of these Dominion offices 15 days before the election. But I did not rise for the purpose of debating that question but to state my willingness, and I think that that willingness is concurred in by my colleagues from Nova Scotia and by gentlemen on this side of the House generally, if there is doubt on the point, to make it so clear that there will be no doubt. Now, the observation I rose more particularly to make was in reply to the ex-Minister of Finance who raised the point that it was immoral and outrageous and abominable—

Mr. FOSTER. Monstrous, I said.

Mr. FLINT. He used all the language of vituperation, of which he is a master, to state his disapproval of the laws of the province which deprived a person who was on the list of a vote.

Mr. FOSTER. Monstrous, I said.

Mr. FLINT. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) was only indulging in that vague and wide vituperation to which we are accustomed from him and which passes harmlessly over those to whom he is opposed. But if he looked at the Franchise Act of which he is proud and which we are attempting to repeal, he would find that all