

year in which the disqualifying clauses of the Franchise Act were passed in Nova Scotia, showing most palpably that this was the first time he had ever heard of that disqualifying Act. I am here to tell the hon. gentleman when that Act was passed, and to read it to him. And I would ask him to keep the information in his mind, and not in future show such lamentable ignorance when addressing the House on a matter of so much concern to the House and country generally. The disqualifying Act of Nova Scotia was passed in 1871, and the very words of that Act are to-day the words of the disqualifying Act which now obtains in that province. These are the words :

It shall not be lawful for any person to vote at an election for a member or members to represent the people, in the general assembly of this province, who, at any time within fifteen days before the day of election, was in the receipt of wages or emolument of any kind as an employee in the post office, the custom-house, the Inland Revenue Department, the lighthouse service, on the Government railroads, in the Crown land office, or the local public works and mines.

The hon. gentleman will see that that was a wide Act in its operation, and that Act was passed in 1871, and is word for word the Act we have to-day in the statutes of Nova Scotia. But the Act did not end there. Section 4 provided that in the case of any names of these parties getting, in any way whatever, upon the list they are to be struck out. It reads as follows :—

The names of the persons disqualified under the first section of this Act shall not be inserted in the lists or register of electors, and, if entered, shall be struck off in the manner provided in chapter 28 of the Acts of 1863.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that the law now in Nova Scotia ?

Mr. GILLIES. Yes, the disqualifying Act is word for word as it is to-day.

Mr. McNEILL. What is the date of that ?

Mr. GILLIES. 1871. That is what the Postmaster General asked for in that non-chalant manner which it would be much better for him to leave aside and thus not expose his lamentable ignorance.

Now, we had complaint after complaint from the province of Nova Scotia that a large number of persons qualified in every respect, who paid their assessments and taxes and contributed in every way to the revenue of this country, were disqualified from voting in a federal election if they were in the enjoyment of a small emolument from the Federal Government. Complaint after complaint came to us asking for some Dominion legislation to remedy this grievance ; and it was in pursuance of these complaints that the Act of 1882 was passed by this Parliament, and not until

that Act was passed by this Parliament were any Dominion officials of the province of Nova Scotia permitted to vote. The hon. Minister of Finance surprised me very considerably when he showed, on the second reading of the Bill, what I think was in him an inexcusable want of knowledge. He said repeatedly on that occasion that the Dominion officials were not disqualified from voting in the province of Nova Scotia at a federal election. He stated that not once but several times, and when the correctness of his statement was questioned by the hon. leader of the Opposition, he spoke as follows :—

My hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) said that the provincial lists prevented them from voting. That would be a very strong argument, only that the hon. gentleman is misinformed as to the facts, for, as I have shown, the local lists did not prevent him from voting.

Now, I have read the law :

The list contained the name of every Dominion official who is qualified to vote by his property or otherwise, in the usual way.

How could the list contain the names when this very Act was the law in the province at the time we passed the Dominion Franchise Act, and the 4th section of the Act stated that they would be struck off if in any way they should have got on ? How could these names be on the lists when the Provincial Act provided that if any of them were put on the local lists they should be struck off ?

Mr. RUSSELL. Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that section 4 of the Act of 1872 is still in force ?

Mr. GILLIES. No ; I am coming to that in a moment. My hon. friend need not be in the slightest degree apprehensive that I will make any statement which will not be entirely correct in this House or elsewhere. He may possess his soul in patience. I shall get down to that to which he now alludes. I do not at all say that section 4 is now existent, but that section 4 of the Act of 1871 was the only law governing in the preparation of the lists in Nova Scotia at the time the Dominion Franchise Act was passed in 1885.

Mr. McCLURE. The hon. gentleman is wrong in that. That section was repealed by the revised statute passed in 1884.

Mr. GILLIES. That fact does not save the hon. gentleman, as I will show in a moment. The hon. Minister of Finance went still further. He said :

The facts show from the beginning that the disqualification of Dominion officials was merely a freak of the imagination.

Now, how can it be a freak of imagination when the law expressly, unequivocally, and most emphatically, as I have shown by reading it, disqualifies them ? And how