

Whole House, with instructions to amend the Bill by striking out clause No. 14, which provides for the appointment of enumerators, and substituting therefor a clause providing for clerks of municipalities making up the voters' lists.

This, then, was the policy of the Liberals in 1886. They voted for it in the legislature to a man. In the elections which were held in December of that year, every Liberal candidate and the Liberal leaders from every hustings in the province declared that, if returned to power, the Liberal party would wipe out the Norquay Act, and make provision for the municipal clerks to compile the lists and the judges of the land to revise them. In January, 1888, Mr. Greenway was called upon to form an Administration. And in the session of the following year, I think, in a moment of honesty, he attempted to redeem his pledges. He did pass an Act embodying these principles of having the voters' lists compiled by municipal clerks and revised by the judges of the land. That Act was a very fair Act, and received the endorsement of every member of the legislature irrespective of party. It was an Act that had stood the test of experience in other provinces. It provided that the lists should be compiled by municipal clerks who were directly responsible to the people, and who, if they attempted any unfair dealings, the subject of their dismissal would be a live issue in the next municipal election, so that self-interest alone would prevent them from following crooked methods. But did Mr. Greenway allow that Act to grace the Statute-book of Manitoba very long? Not at all. It was too fair an Act to suit his purpose. He wished to barricade himself behind a partisan Election Act, and one year afterwards, without giving an opportunity for the feasibility of this Act to be tested in a general election, he wiped it off the Statute-book and enacted another embodying every feature condemned by himself in the Norquay Act and in the present Dominion Franchise Act. Nay, more, embodying features much more iniquitous than were to be found in either. Instead of lists being compiled by municipal clerks they were to be compiled by registration clerks, the nominees of the Liberal candidates, whose only qualifications for the position were that they were political partisans, and now in every riding, the lists are compiled under the direct supervision of the Liberal candidates. The Acts of the registration clerks have been notorious. Where judges have acted as revising officers, which is by no means as frequent as it should be, these registration clerks have been reprimanded and condemned. Judge Ardagh in Winnipeg and Judge Ryan in Portage la Prairie, may be named in this connection. The latter, holding a revision for the riding of Beautiful Plains, reprimanded the registration clerk in open court, declared that he had never had such trouble in a court, and that had he known the

Mr. ROCHE.

difficulties he had to face, he would never have accepted the commission of revising officer. The action of these clerks has been such that hundreds, nay thousands, of Conservatives have been disfranchised. The leader of the Opposition has enumerated several instances, notably that of North Winnipeg, where 400 electors were left off the list. The whole Hebrew vote, amounting to 250, were left off because it was expected that they would vote in a body for the Conservative candidate, whereas the Icelandic voters were put on without applications because they generally vote Liberal. Twenty-seven Conservative employees of the Ogilvie Milling Company were left off simply because they were Conservatives, and every Liberal employee was put on without application on their part. And when the registration clerk was asked how these men were put on without application, he had to admit that their names were taken off an old scrutineer's book. As a matter of fact, it was an old canvass book. These men had been marked as having voted for the Liberal candidate, and their names were put on without any application, while the names of Conservatives in the same milling company were left off. In the local constituency adjoining my own, I sent in 35 names that were left off. The hon. gentleman knows what that means, when you take into consideration the sparsely-settled nature of that country. Over 100 other names in that constituency were left off in like manner. In the local constituency where I reside dozens of names were left off the list of men who had voted for ten, twelve or fourteen years previously. It seemed almost an impossibility, even at the court of revision, to get those names on the list without a personal attendance, which necessitated time and labour, and travelling eight or ten miles, and sometimes even thirty or forty miles. In this case the court of revision was held at the extreme eastern end of a county fifty miles long, and in the town where the Liberal candidate resided, to suit his own convenience. In the previous election three courts of revision were held in the same county. In the constituency of Dauphin 200 names were left off the list. In one instance an engagement was made with a registration clerk to put the Conservatives upon the list. A man was to appear at a certain hour with their names, and the registration clerk was to be there to receive the names. But it turned out that he could not be found, and it leaked out afterwards, and they thought it was a sharp trick, the gentleman's own son gave him away by stating that his father had been hiding in a hayloft all the afternoon. In the riding of South Brandon the election was run upon an unrevised list, no time was allowed to have the list printed and to have a court of revision; and therefore the list was not revised at all. In the city of Brandon, on the other