

out any reference to this obnoxious Act disqualifying Dominion officials in Nova Scotia from not only voting at local elections in that province, but also from voting at Dominion elections in Nova Scotia. But when it went to the Senate, the Senate asserted itself—which it frequently does, I am glad to say—they saw an evil was being done in Nova Scotia, and they determined to have it remedied. So, when the Bill came back to the Commons, it came with certain amendments having reference to the province of Ontario, and one amendment having reference to the province of Nova Scotia. That amendment I will now read to the House :

Notwithstanding anything in any law of the province of Nova Scotia, or of the Dominion of Canada, no employee on the Intercolonial Railway in that province shall be disqualified to vote as an elector at any future election of a member or members to serve in the House of Commons of Canada, if he shall have the necessary property and other qualifications therefor required by law. In the event of the name of any such elector, being an employee on the Intercolonial Railway, having been omitted by the revisers from the list of qualified voters for a member of the General Assembly of Nova Scotia under the laws in force in that province or to be returned to the county clerks or clerks of the peace, or omitted from the lists of voters deposited by the sheriff with the county clerk or clerks of the peace, or obtained by the returning officer or furnished to the deputy returning officer, it shall be lawful for such employee to vote as an elector at any future election of a member or members to serve in the House of Commons of Canada, on his taking or offering to take before the sheriff or returning officer the following oath, viz. :—

I (A.B.) do swear that I am legally qualified to vote at this election, and I verily believe that my name was omitted from the list of electors by reason of my being an employee of the Dominion Government on the Intercolonial Railway at the time such list was last perfected, and for no other reason.

So, the obnoxious Act was repealed by that Act, and at the same time the iniquities of the revising officers in the different districts in Nova Scotia were provided against. It was a fact that the revisers left these men off the list when they had a perfect right to go on the list ; and then others were met by the disqualifying oath, when they came to vote. But they did actually leave them off the list, simply because the party heelers told them it was the law, that they had no vote, and what was the good of putting these men upon the list. So that the Act of 1882 was passed, not only for the purpose of righting those wrongs which were done under semblance of law, but at the same time it was passed to repeal an obnoxious Act which was upon the Dominion Statute-book. That amendment was supported in this House by the present leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and was spoken to in the Senate by the present Senator for Colchester, Mr. McKay, and it was advocated by both these gentlemen. The present leader of the Opposition, at that

time, in advocating that amendment, did so with a speech, the gist of which I will give :

All this amendment does is to enable those who pay the amount of taxation the law requires, and whose names have been left off the electoral lists in consequence of the local Act of 1871, to exercise the franchise upon being prepared to take an oath that they have been omitted from the list in consequence of the disqualifying Acts of 1871.

The Debates show exactly what they wanted to do. The very same party machine that did not wish that even the smell of Canada should be upon the electoral lists of Nova Scotia, the same party machine that placed that law upon the books of Nova Scotia, placed that law upon the books of this Parliament. Now, we want to know whether the same party machine, which has exponents even in this House, are going to do the same thing with reference to this Bill, because this Bill has a clause which provides for the very same iniquity. I do not care whether these Dominion officials are to be ruled by the men who are their masters now in Nova Scotia, or not, but they are free men, they are men who are as well qualified to vote as the ablest man in Nova Scotia, and being to-day qualified, having the property qualification, having the qualification of age, they have just as much right to be placed upon that list, they have just as much right to vote, as the ablest and wealthiest man in Nova Scotia. Now, will some member of the Government tell us whether these exponents, of whom we have some in this House, who are determined that not even the smell of Canada shall be in Nova Scotia—are these men going still to persist in this thing, to come again before this House and persist in leaving this blot upon our legislation ? I think, before we go into committee, it is proper for some hon. gentleman to assure this House that no such disgrace will be put upon our Statute-book. Before I sit down, I wish to refer to one other matter. The hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac) arose in his place, the other night, and said :

Perhaps it may be so in Annapolis, but in my part of the province I never knew such ignorance to exist.

Referring to the fact that the revisers left voters off the list illegally, being ignorant of the law. I have only to refer the hon. gentleman to the Acts of Nova Scotia of 1880, 1881 and 1882. In every one of those Acts, what do we find ? We find in 1880, an "Act to legalize jury lists and panels of assessment rolls, and revising lists for the present year." The enormities of the revisers were so great that the legislature had to take cognizance of them, and in order to give them a legal status in the country, they had to pass a special Act, so that the elections could be run legally. The Act goes on to say :

Mr. MILLS.