

between 2,500 and 3,000, on the voters' list upon which the polling took place there were 119 names of persons who had been absent from the country—some of them absent for four or five years. Eighty of these men had sold their properties and severed their connection with the county altogether, forty-six of them had for years been living in the United States, seventeen of them were dead, and in addition to all this, over fifty good substantial voters were omitted from the list. In the town of Clinton, having a population of 2,500 or 3,000, with the dead men and the absentees on the list and with the good votes not on the list, the voters' list in that town alone was wrong by over 100 votes. The riding of West Huron contains seven municipalities, of which Clinton is the smallest, and assuming that the same mistakes arose in every other municipality, then the voters' list in the west riding of Huron was wrong by 700 votes. Had it not been for this I would have had a majority of 1,000 instead of 379 votes. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have about 210 constituencies in the Dominion of Canada, and if the voters' lists in the west riding of Huron were wrong by 700 votes, as I am satisfied they were wrong, then if you multiply 700 by 210 you will find that the voters' lists of the Dominion of Canada at the last general election were wrong by at least 150,000 votes; and this is the list that was to be perfect under the Administration of hon. gentlemen opposite. I suppose I am bound to assume that these mistakes crept in there unintentionally, but it is a marvellous circumstance that they crept in just upon the occasion of a general election, and that the most of the mistakes were in favour of hon. gentlemen opposite. It is marvellous, I say, that the mistakes should have crept in just then, and under these peculiar circumstances. That could not have happened under a good law, it could not have happened under the old Franchise Law, but it did happen under this law, which I believe to be the very worst Franchise Law we ever had in the Dominion of Canada or in any of its Provinces. The principle of the Bill is bad, the details are vicious in the extreme, the working of the Act is complicated, difficult and expensive, and altogether I am sure that there is not a man upon the other side of the House who will venture to declare on the floor of Parliament that this Bill has proved in every respect thoroughly satisfactory. But that is not all, Sir. There are other and perhaps stronger and more powerful arguments in favour of the repeal of this Bill. I recollect well, others with myself pointing out to the First Minister and to the First Minister's colleagues: you force this Bill through Parliament, and what will be the result? The result will be difficulties in getting the names upon the voters' lists, difficulties in getting names that ought not to be on the voters' list taken off the voters' lists, and, above all, it will entail upon the tax-payers an enormous annual public burden. And that is not all: it will entail upon the candidates and on both political parties an additional enormous expense at every revision. We were told that it would not be so; we were told that it would be a cheap franchise and one easily operated; our fears were belittled, and hon. gentlemen would not take a word of advice or warning. Who proved to be right and who proved to be wrong? According to the Auditor General's Reports—I do not know whether they are correct or not, but they are issued under Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

the authority of the Government—I find that during the year ending on the 31st of June, 1888, \$409,317 was expended under this Dominion Franchise Act by the Government alone; in a subsequent year \$69,970 was expended, in 1889 \$17,237, and in the last year \$233,078; making an aggregate of \$729,700 of expenditure by the Government as the direct result of this Act, which has given satisfaction to nobody, and has worried and harassed everybody who has had anything to do with it. I notice that the hon. Secretary of State says that the expenditure does not amount to so much; he puts it at \$676,000. Well, let us take the lower figure; is not that an enormous sum to pay in such a way? And recollect, we have had only two revisions in six years. The Act is so vicious in principle and so bad in detail that the supporters of the Government persisted in suspending its operation for every year of the six except two years. The result of the suspension was that in the last election the votes in all the constituencies were recorded on ancient voters' lists two years old, the effect of which was to disqualify men who ought to have been enfranchised, and to leave enfranchised men who were not entitled to vote. But you must recollect that the sum which the Government pays is not the whole of the burden imposed on the people of this country by the Franchise Act. As examples, take my own riding and some others in the same neighbourhood. I know as a matter of fact that there was spent in cash in revising the voters' lists in West Huron \$750 by the Liberal party alone, and I know that that sum was inadequate for a thorough and effective revision. I know constituencies in which double that sum, and others in which three times that sum was expended. Our Conservative friends in my riding declared that they spent a sum equal to what we did. That makes \$1,500 which was expended in that one riding, over and above the expenditure which the Government charged against the tax-payers for the revision of the lists. And that is not all. The total cost of this Act is not the bare expenditure by the Dominion Government out of the tax-payers' money, not the bare expenditure by the parties in the counties out of their own pockets. For a week or two scores of men in each riding have to devote their attention to gathering information as to who should and who should not be on the list, and they have to incur expenditure in attending court, looking after preliminary and final revisions, and so on, which must come to a very large sum. But I am content to put the expenditure at \$750 on each side, making \$1,500 for each constituency. There are about 210 constituencies in the Dominion; and if you multiply \$1,500 by 210 you will have a very nice sum of money, very nearly equal to what the Government pay for revising officers, printing, &c., out of the taxes of the people. The two revisions which have taken place cannot have cost the people of this country less than a million and a quarter of dollars; and I venture to say that if anyone took the trouble to ascertain the real facts of the case he would find my estimate to be below rather than above the mark. That is not all. We ran the last election on obsolete voters' lists two years old. We were handicapped in the race; we have often been handicapped; it has often been "tails I win, heads you lose;" the contest has generally been with loaded dice, the