

quiring into the evil and ascertaining how it was done, can get to work and pass a law that will completely stop this abominable business and permit the electors of this country to record their votes without ballot switching or ballot box stuffing. I condemn any man who has been guilty of it. I care not what his political creed or affiliations may be. We want no more of it, and I hope this session the Bill that will be presented to us will be so framed that it will put an absolute stop to this kind of thing. I entirely agree with the hon. Secretary of State when he said that he was in favour of compulsory voting. I am also in favour of it. I think a law should be enacted that every man who chooses to be an elector must go to the poll and record his vote. I would give him the choice, because we have some men that have conscientious scruples about voting at all. I would give those men an opportunity when the assessor goes around to their houses of deciding. The assessor would say to the man: 'Mr. Brown, I want to know if you wish to be a voter at the Dominion election? If he desires to be entered on the roll as an elector for the Dominion election, I would make it imperative that he must record his vote. I would also give him an opportunity of saying whether he would be an elector at the local election or not. If he said yes, I would then make him understand that he has to record his vote, and if he refuses to go and record his vote, of his own free will, I would disfranchise him for seven years, so that he could not have a vote. I would give him an opportunity, however, if the condition of his health was such that he could not attend, to file a certificate from a properly licensed physician, setting forth the fact that he was in a condition of health that it was impossible, or that it would be dangerous for him to go to the poll. I would further provide that for such a certificate the doctor would be entitled to a respectable fee, so that the elector would go to the poll and record his vote. I think it would be a good thing if we passed a law of that kind, because a great many of the evils that we have are due to the fact that men hang behind. They won't go to the polls. You have to drive them, you have to carry them, and when you get them there they

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN.

have to be coaxed in order to get them to record their vote. Now, if it were compulsory, so that they would have to record their vote or lose their franchise, I think it would be a step in the right direction. I do not know that it is necessary that I should refer to any more cases of wrong doing; of which our hon. friends opposite were guilty during the 18 years during which they were occupying the Treasury benches, but if it were necessary I could refer you to many. In the case of the Haldimand election, a gentleman was clearly cheated out of his seat. Mr. Coulter, who is now a judge, ran against Dr. Montague. We know perfectly well that in the investigation that took place it was clearly shown that the grossest rascality that could be practised was practised in that election. In one place it was proven that the deputy returning officer had opened the poll at half past 8 in the morning, and when the scrutineer on behalf of Mr. Coulter arrived at the place a few minutes before 9, expecting to be sworn in as scrutineer, the poll had been open half an hour and there were thirteen ballots in the box and no scrutineer for Mr. Coulter. We know that because it was proved in the investigation that that man, when his watch showed 5 o'clock in the afternoon closed the polling-subdivision and drove 5 miles himself into another constituency to record his own vote, and he was there before the poll was closed. When the investigation took place, the judges pronounced him and others guilty of the grossest corruption, and one man was deprived of his franchise for some seven years. What was done with him? He could not go into Haldimand again when another election was held, because if he had done so he would have unseated Dr. Montague if he took part in the election. But the government of the day actually appointed that man to go down to Haldimand and arrange terms with the Indians upon which they could become the owners of the properties on which they lived. They gave him \$10 a day and expenses, mind you, a man that had been disqualified by the courts, a man that had been pronounced as guilty of the most abominable political wickedness that any man could be charged with, and the courts deprived him of his franchise for seven years, yet the govern-