

time this Act came into force. Subsequently, in the revisions of 1891 and 1894, there was no manhood suffrage, and the lists were made upon restricted franchises, and it is a matter of notoriety that in these provinces that fact was complained of. The fact was well known to every one in these provinces that in the subsequent revision of the franchises, the lists were restricted according to the terms of the Dominion Franchise Act.

Mr. FLINT. A few moments ago I was most rudely and discourteously refused by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) the privilege of asking him a question—a privilege which is always most courteously allowed on this side of the House to hon. gentlemen opposite. As it was the first time I rose to ask this privilege of the hon. gentleman, I now give him notice that it is not likely I shall ever do so again.

Mr. FOSTER. Thanks.

Mr. FLINT. The hon. gentleman not only did so in a manner which I thought was ungentlemanly and discourteous, but he added impertinence and insult, which I, for one, will not take from him or any other member of this House.

Mr. FOSTER. I beg leave to ask the hon. gentleman to point out what insulting words I used with reference to him.

Mr. FLINT. I will repeat the words which I considered were insulting, and which, I think, if the hon. gentleman were possessed of the spirit of fairness that ought to characterize a gentleman in his position, especially in the circumstances under which I rose, he would not have made use of. He was making an argument upon a particular legal point in connection with the Franchise Act of Nova Scotia and I asked him politely if I might put to him a question. In the manner I have not seen him use towards any other gentleman on this side, he refused me, as was his right, the privilege, and then he added that he had already given way to the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), who knew something about this question, but he would not give way to the hon. gentleman for Yarmouth, who knew nothing about it.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman is drawing inference of his own, which he had a perfect right to do, but which is not borne out by what I said, and has imputed to me a discourtesy of which I am guiltless.

Mr. FLINT. I have given the very words of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. FOSTER. I leave that to "Hansard."

Mr. FLINT. The hon. gentleman has the right to hold such opinion of me as he thinks fit. My own opinion of myself is modest enough, and I do not claim to know more of this question than any other of my colleagues.

Mr. FOSTER. I give the hon. gentleman notice that when the "Hansard" is out, I will bring this matter to the attention of the House.

The PRIME MINISTER. If my hon. friend will allow me, the words used by the hon. member for York were not exactly as my hon. friend stated, but it struck me that my hon. friend had some reason to complain. My hon. friend from York did not mention my hon. friend from Yarmouth, but he said: I gave way to the hon. member for Halifax because he generally knows what he is talking about, but I shall not give way to another. There was an inference in that remark which justifies the complaint of my hon. friend.

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Mr. FLINT. The hon. gentleman, of course, will never be interrupted by me again under any circumstances whatever. The point to which he was addressing himself was one which this discussion made important, although in my opinion it had not previously been of very great importance. In the few observations I made on the Franchise Act, when first introduced, I referred to the suggested or implied disqualification of certain qualified voters in the province of Nova Scotia from voting at Dominion elections, and I said then, with the concurrence, I believe of all my colleagues on this side, that although there was no disqualification in the law now existing with regard to that class of voters, yet if there was any doubt, I was convinced that when we reached the committee stage there would be a general disposition to make the matter so clear that doubt would be removed. The ex-Minister of Finance reiterated the point that all Dominion officials were excluded by the Nova Scotia franchise from the lists, and it was contended, I think correctly, upon this side that they were not excluded from the voters' lists, although they were excluded by the election Act from voting in the local elections.

Mr. MILLS. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to put him a question?

Mr. FLINT. Certainly; I am not like the ex-Minister of Finance.

Mr. MILLS. The Nova Scotia Act provides:

The names of persons disqualified under the first section of this Act shall not be inserted in the list of registered electors, and if entered therein shall be struck off.

Is that the law now?

Mr. FLINT. No, it is repealed by the Act of 1885.

Mr. MILLS. What Act of 1885.

Mr. RUSSELL. The Consolidated Statutes of 1885.

The PRIME MINISTER. Apologize.