

HON. MR. GOWAN—The 14th section of the Act provides that the revising officer to be appointed in every Province except Quebec and British Columbia, shall be either a judge, or junior judge, of some county or district court, and in reading this 49th clause, any lawyer would read it with reference to the general provision.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—Is it possible that the Minister of Justice intends that this law should go into operation with a clause in it which anticipates that if the revising officer is a judge he cannot make a mistake, and that there shall be no appeal against his decision? Is that really the decision of the Minister of Justice?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Yes.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—Then I think it is a very bad provision.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—There must be finality somewhere, and if you cannot get it in the court where are you to get it?

The clause was agreed to.

On the 57th clause,

HON. MR. POWER—I see by this clause that the first lists are to be filed before 1st of August, 1886. The Prime Minister has given notice in the other Chamber that he has decided not to push this session the measure which is to provide for the payment of those officers. Does not the Minister of Justice think it is a very objectionable thing to have those officers appointed to make up the lists under this Bill without any definite salary? Does it not leave those officers still more under the control of the Government than they would be if their salaries were fixed in advance? Here are hundreds of men making up electoral lists all over the country, knowing that their salaries depend upon the good will of the Government of the day. Can the Opposition, and the people who are not going to pay the money expect to get much fair play under those circumstances? Does it not render the appointment of the county judges less valuable? If the remuneration that they are to receive for these services depends on the good will of the Govern-

ment, and is not publicly fixed until after the lists are made up, there is every inducement for the officers to make the lists in such a way as to be most acceptable to the Government. I think it is very much to be regretted that the Premier has withdrawn that measure, because if that Bill had been passed there would have been a certain show of independence about the revising officers.

HON. MR. DICKEY—My hon. friend will see that this Act is not to take effect until next year.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—The expectation is that most of the work of preparing the lists will be done by the judges without any remuneration at all. Where there is remuneration Parliament will determine how much that remuneration shall be.

HON. MR. POWER—Parliament means the Prime Minister.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—It cannot mean that; the hon. gentleman is very much out of order indeed. The remuneration will be settled by the same power that passes this Bill. So long as a judge does the duty of preparing the lists there can be no suspicion, and I do not think it is fair to attach suspicion to people who are to act as officers, that they are going to discharge their duties erroneously and make mistakes on purpose, because they are to be paid by the Government or by anybody else. It seems to me to be a very unfair impression to create against the officers who will perform this service. The Premier is satisfied that he can have the work done in most places by the county court judges.

HON. MR. POWER—It is all very well to be charitable, and it may strike the Minister of Justice that I am a little uncharitable but I do not think so. It is only by being suspicious and watchful—

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—That we can preserve our liberties.

HON. MR. POWER—That we can be free. I wish to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that not long ago