

to vote at elections of members of the General Assembly under the laws in force in Nova Scotia on the first day of July, 1867, but who may have been disqualified by any Act of the legislature of that province passed after the said day. The lists first made shall form the register of electors of members of the House of Commons until the next year's list shall be made and perfected, and the provisions of sections 25, 26 and 27, respectively, of the said chapter shall be held applicable to such future lists. For any neglect or wilful breach of duty under this section, the revisers shall be subject to the like penalties prescribed in section 24 of the said chapter.

That was passed by this Parliament the very month that the obnoxious Act was passed in Nova Scotia. Understand, it was only to be in force for two years, being a temporary Act. On the 23rd May, 1873, there was another Act passed by this House. That Act is entitled "An Act to make temporary provision for the election of members to serve in the House of Commons." The first section of the Act provides:

This law shall be in force during one year from the time of the passing thereof, and from then until the end of the next session, and no longer.

Section 10 of that Act re-enacts the provision made in 1871. There is no necessity to read it. This Act was assented to on the 23rd May, 1873. On the 23rd November, 1873, the Government of Alexander Mackenzie took the reins of power, and on the 22nd January, 1874, the elections took place. The next legislation with reference to this matter took place in 1874 in this Parliament. This Act is entitled "An Act respecting the election of members of the House of Commons." Section 40 of that Act reads as follows:—

Subject to the exceptions herein above contained, all persons qualified to vote at the election of representatives of the House of Assembly or Legislative Assembly of the several provinces composing the Dominion of Canada, and no others, shall be entitled to vote at the election of members of the House of Commons of Canada for the several electoral districts comprised within such provinces respectively, and all lists of voters made and prepared, and which would, according to the laws in force in the said several provinces, be used if the election were that of a representative or representatives to the House of Assembly or Legislative Assembly of the province in which the election is held (where such lists are required to be made), shall be the lists of voters which shall be used at the elections of members of the House of Commons to be held under the provisions of this Act.

In other words, it does not bring into voting power the Dominion officials as the Act of 1873 did, but goes back to the oldest disqualification Act of 1871. Section 43 of the Act also provides for the disqualifying Act I have mentioned in the obnoxious Act of Nova Scotia of 1871:

Each elector being introduced, one at a time for each compartment, into the room where the

poll is held, shall declare his name, surname and addition, which shall be entered or recorded in the voters' list to be kept for that purpose by the poll clerk, and if the same be found on the list of electors for the polling district of such polling station, he shall receive from the deputy returning officer a ballot paper, on which such deputy returning officer shall have previously put his initials, and an envelope.

Provided that such elector, if required by the deputy returning officer, the poll clerk, one of the candidates or one of their agents, or by an elector present, shall, before receiving his ballot paper and envelope, take the oaths or oath of qualification required by the laws in force in the province where the election is held, from a voter at the election of a member of the House of Assembly of that province, the words "House of Commons of Canada" being in such case substituted for "House of Assembly" or such other change being made to make the oath applicable to the election of a member of the House of Commons of Canada, and which the deputy returning officer or poll clerk is hereby authorized to administer.

The effect of that is to incorporate into the statutes of Canada, in the Dominion Election Act of 1874, the obnoxious Act of Nova Scotia in 1871, disqualifying Dominion officials and railway employees from voting for members to be returned to this Parliament.

Now, the Finance Minister asks: Why, then, was this Act passed, referring to the Act of 1882? There was very good reason why it should be passed. On the spur of the moment I gave the reason which was then uppermost in the minds of everybody—the manner in which the revisers had used the lists and left off these names from the lists in Nova Scotia. But there was another reason, and that was this obnoxious Act was on the Dominion Statute-book that it was legal to prevent the railway employees and Dominion officials from voting in elections for members to be returned to this House.

Now, the next legislation which occurs is the Act of 1878, which is entitled "An Act further securing the independence of Parliament." That Act does not do away with that obnoxious disqualification, but it further endorses it, and further engrafts it into the election law of this Parliament. I refer to section 5, which I will not read, because it simply re-enacts the provisions that I have just read. The very party machine that had caused the Act to be put in the Statute-book of Nova Scotia, caused it to be engrafted into an Act of this Parliament, and made it the law of this Parliament. Therefore, there was every reason why, when a Conservative Government came into power, they should immediately pass the Act of 1882. The next Act is that of 1882, which I shall refer to. This Act is entitled "An Act to readjust the representation in the House of Commons, and for other purposes." That Act was passed by the Conservative Government in 1882. The Bill was introduced into this House, as I find by referring to the Debates of that time, with-