

having received his list, goes about the different municipalities, to do what? In the province of Ontario every man is entitled to have his name on the list of voters for candidates for the local legislature who is of the age of twenty-one years and is a British subject, regardless of whether he has property or not. The assessor's list is made up to include the names of such persons, and is then returned to the clerk. Then there is held in the municipality a court under the control of the municipal council itself, when an appeal can be heard of those who wish to have their names on the list. This is held about June or July. But the matter is not concluded there. The next move is that any party that feels aggrieved with the conduct of the municipality has an appeal to the county court judge; and the county court judge, in turn, holds a court later on in the different municipalities of the county; and it is very often away on in the month of November or December when the list for the year is completed. Now, the hon. gentleman says that in the preparation of the Dominion voters' list, where the same county judge takes the self-same assessment roll and fills it up, after announcement that he will receive applications of parties entitled to be placed upon the list, it is the self-same judge who holds this court. The hon. gentleman would have us believe that when this judge holds court for the Dominion lists he is the villain in the play, and if he is deciding as to the local lists he is quite honest and above-board. What a farcical proposition to place before right-thinking men. One would suppose there was an imaginary line separating the Liberals and Conservatives, and on the Liberal side all holiness and purity, and on the other all wickedness and vileness. I propose to show you—and I am not going to cast reflection upon the Liberal party as a whole—how the revision of the voters' list is carried on in certain cases. I will say that in my own riding, man for man, the Conservatives are as respectable as the Liberals, and in the revision of the list, whether for the local or federal, the Conservatives certainly had more to redound to their credit than had the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. Now, it is argued in the first place, that the cost is enormous and the hon. gentleman figures that a million dollars has been spent in the four revisions of the lists, or an average of a quarter of a million upon each. That that is the case I do not deny, but that the local lists will cost fully as much I am here to affirm and to prove. Why, Sir, one would imagine that these local lists were revised and completed throughout the whole province of Ontario without cost to anybody. The fact is, that while for the Dominion franchise the cost has been borne by the country, yet for the local lists it is borne by the several municipalities. The hon. gentleman says that the cost is all

on one side. Let me tell him that, taking the average of ten municipalities to a riding—and that is a low average—after a close investigation and scrutiny, any revision of the local list must be at a cost of at least \$100 to each municipality. And I will tell you why. In the first place, certain fees are allowed to the county court judge, who revises the lists. In the second place, while we have an inexpensive manner of summoning men to appear before the court under the Dominion franchise law—merely notifying them by letter to appear—under the provincial law you have to personally serve every man against whom you are appealing. The result is that the cost of a revision in any township runs up, as I know they have done in my own riding, to the sum of \$100 or over. And that cost is borne by the municipalities. Now, take ten municipalities to the average riding, and you have a cost to each riding of \$1,000. If in each of 213 ridings the same thing happens, there is an aggregate expense cast upon the municipalities of close upon \$200,000. Now, the hon. gentleman says that heretofore we have only had this occasionally. But I would remind him that if there is going to be this close scrutiny of the local lists each year in order to meet by-elections and elections that come unexpectedly, that expense would have to be borne every year by the municipality, and not once every four or five years as at present.

Now, for the edification of the hon. gentleman, and in order to convince him—because I believe he is a doubting Thomas—that there can be good on our side of the House and villainy on his side, I have some newspaper references to the revision of the lists in East Simcoe. In the revision of 1894, knowing that the elections were coming on, we on the Conservative side in that riding put forth our best efforts to have a fair and honest voters' list. And, when the revision was over, we found how essential and necessary it was. I will read some references showing how the Liberals in that riding sought to carry on the revision of the voters' lists. The following is from the Orillia "Packet," of September 29th, and the judge is the same judge who revised the Dominion lists:

Judge Ardagh found a pretty stiff piece of work cut out for him, when he came, last Monday, to hold the voters' list court for the township of Orillia. The net results of His Honour's labours, assisted by representatives of both political parties, is as follows:—The Conservatives had fifty-five names put on and forty-one struck off. This does not make account of two names put on for which both sides had appealed. The net gain for the Conservatives on the day's doings is eighty-seven. Thirty-two cases were adjourned till October 16th. Of these only one is a Liberal appeal. Of the remaining thirty-one, twenty-eight are appeals against the names of men who cannot be found, who are returned by the pathmasters as not having done statute labour.

I fancy how the hon. gentleman shudders