

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—There is one point to which I desire to draw the hon. gentleman's attention with reference to civil servants. It is assumed, when a civil servant is superannuated, he is unfit, from bodily infirmity, or age, for the duties of his office. Now, we have some men in the Public Service who are over seventy. It is only on a civil servant becoming unfit for the work allotted him that he is removed.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT—I cannot see any reason why we should not allow the electors to choose the gentlemen they wish to represent them in Parliament.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—With regard to the amendment which was made at my suggestion, for my own part, I had no personal interest one way or another in it; but I did consider, and had good reason from reliable authority to believe, that the disqualification of Clerks of the Peace was intended as personal legislation, at the instance of some members of the other House, and I thought, therefore, it should not be tolerated. The Clerks of the Peace have no power whatever to falsify the voters lists. They are made out at first by the assessors who should be disqualified, if the reasons given by the House of Commons are sound, because it is very easy for them to value property in such a way as to increase the number of voters on one side or the other. In this way large numbers of votes are made by partizan assessors in the Province of Nova Scotia where the Local Government controls the municipal organizations to a large extent, and there is a great deal of jerry-mandering in the appointment of assessors and revisers. The revisers have a sort of judicial authority to deal with the names of persons, and have great power to strike off or add to the lists. I think, therefore, if any local officials should be disqualified it should be the assessors and revisers, and not the clerks of the peace who are merely custodians, and who are not in a position to falsify voters' lists. As I mentioned when this subject was before the House on a former occasion, one instance occurred recently in which a reviser attempted to add five hundred names to the voter's list. It so happened in that instance that he was not assisted by the other two revisers. That reviser is the acknowledged candi-

date of one of the two parties that will contest the county in the coming election. With regard to what the hon. Secretary of State said—that the House of Commons had treated the Senate with a great deal of deference in having accepted the amendment to the clause relating to ourselves—I think it was a most unfortunate and uncalled for remark. The truth is, on every possible occasion a certain party in that House have gone out of their way to treat this Senate with indignity. From the very inception of Confederation men holding leading positions in that party have gone out of their way to throw obloquy on this branch of the Legislature, and it was only the other day I heard the Premier say he could not get justice from a Committee of this House. In view of these facts, it is too great a venture on the part of the Secretary of State to talk of the deference or courtesy which those gentlemen have paid us in this respect. The policy of the Government seems to be to find fault with every act we do, and to impute a wrong motive to every word we utter. The clause which they inserted in this Bill was intended as an insult.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I tell the hon. gentleman I believe it was. What they imagined was that we would resent the indignity and throw it out, and then they would get out the cry that we desired to hold office without any check. Otherwise, they desired to make us swallow a very unpalatable Bill. It was largely at my suggestion that my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition in this House acted in dropping the second amendment. I hope the House will have no hesitation in carrying the motion.

Hon. Mr. KAULBACH—I am sorry the hon. gentleman who has just sat down had anything to do with dropping the second amendment. I think the ground that was taken in this House was a very good one for making that amendment; at the same time, I am prepared to yield. I say, if any local officials should be disqualified it should be the assessors and revisers, and not the clerks of the peace.

The House divided on the amendment,