

range to have trollyed away on railway service somewhere else. They could do as has been explained by the Minister of Railways, who gave us an exposition on the subject of shingles a year ago.—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. All of which was false.

Mr. RUSSELL. But this was not false, because it remains on the permanent records of Parliament. These gentlemen enfranchised those officials whom they could control and make use of in elections, and left out the others. They remind one of the humour of Artemus Ward who used to amuse us years ago with the recital of an effort to arouse indignation on the subject of the wrongs and agonies of the slave. Doesn't your blood bile when you hear their chains clank ?" he asks, and the answer is "Nary a bile ; let 'em clank." Their blood did not bile for these men in the post office, the light-house service, the Crown Law Office, the Public Works and Mines. The fine dramatic frenzy of the hon. leader of the Opposition and the hon. gentleman who sits beside him was restricted exclusively to the case of the Intercolonial Railway officials. There is another hon. gentleman here who grows very fervent, he has extreme passionate fervors of moral indignation about things that are improper and unjust. I refer to the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill). I am always glad to hear him, for I believe his fervors are genuine, every thrill and every tremor is genuine and sincere. I listen to him always with the greatest interest. I regard him almost as a means of grace, it is the next thing to going to church to listen to him. I want to know if he is aware of what a vast field there is here for the exercise of these holy emotions that kindle and warm the heart and illumine the conscience. I present this case to him, because I know that when he has looked into it and sees the wrong done to so many people under the guise of a remedy for a wrong inflicted by a provincial statute, he will one day indulge us with an exhibition of this fervor of moral enthusiasm with which he so often moves and thrills the House.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chairman—

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Chairman, we who desire to go on with the discussion of the matter before the Chair must protest—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills) has the floor.

Mr. MILLS. I have listened with pleasure to the hon. member for Halifax telling us of the Act which restored the votes of these Dominion officials in Nova Scotia. But the hon. gentleman should have gone a little further. He should have told this House how it was that that clause came to be upon

the Statute-book. It was not on a general discussion of the Franchise Act or of the franchise of Nova Scotia or of the different provinces, but it came up exceptionally in connection with another Act that was being put through this House, which Act was called the Representation Act—"An Act to readjust the representation in the House of Commons, and for other purposes." When that Act was put through this House, there was nothing at all said with reference to restoring the franchise to these disfranchised people in Nova Scotia. But when it came to the Senate, the senators, who were more thoroughly imbued than any other representatives of Nova Scotia, with the iniquity of this disfranchisement of the people employed in the Intercolonial Railway, introduced an amendment, and when the Bill came back to this House, the amended Bill was put through in the form in which it stands at the present time. So, it was not upon a general discussion of the franchise as worked in Nova Scotia that that clause was put upon the Statute-book, it was put there incidentally.

If you were to look at the discussion which took place, you will see that even that was opposed by the Hon. Edward Blake, and by other members on the Liberal side of the House. There was not any motion made by the Liberals of that day that the lighthouse keepers or other Dominion officials in Nova Scotia should be restored to the list. But this Act was put there incidentally to the general Act which I have recited. Now I want to speak with reference to the amendment that is now before the House. I congratulate the promoter of the Bill upon the attempt that he has made to restore the franchise to those officials in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada, for that is the object of the amendment which he is about to propose, I believe. But I desire emphatically to point this out to him, and I point it out with a good deal of modesty, not that I am entirely certain, but simply because I have a desire that there should be no misunderstanding in these matters. If this Act is to be placed upon the Statute-book we will find, in Nova Scotia particularly, that the lists will be prepared by men who can be confused by every lawyer that might come up, on one side or the other ; and we want the law made so plain that they will not be confused, that they will know what they are doing. What is the law now with reference to this matter in Nova Scotia ? With the permission of the House I will read it :

The following persons, if of the full age of twenty-one years and subjects of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization, and not disqualified by any section of this Act, or otherwise by law prevented from voting, should be entitled to have their names entered upon the list of electors provided for by the sections of this Act, and if so entered, shall be entitled to vote at elections of members to serve in the House of Assembly.