

hateful to the better thinking people, and I must say in all sincerity it is not honest to the electorate of the county or any country that they should be compelled to suffer such infamous procedure on the part of an official and have it receive no recognition.

I consider when an honest elector goes to the poll to deliver his vote, he should have confidence in all officials handling the ballots, and particularly the sheriff having the custody of the boxes, that his vote would be counted as legitimate and not tampered with or his ballot manipulated in any way, but that his vote would count in the recapitulation sheet when summing up the totals.

I would, therefore, as a remedy to avoid this evil recommend manhood suffrage, which I might say is practically that now, and open voting, as the present system of voting by ballot is mean and contemptible, and opens the door to all sorts of fraud, and not only that but it encourages in cases false swearing, whilst open voting is simple in its operation, the least expensive and least liable to complications.

Mr. MILLS. Before you go into committee on this Bill, I wish to make a few remarks respecting clauses Nos. 4 and 5. Clause No. 4 reads :

The Electoral Franchise Act, being chapter five of the Revised Statutes, and all Acts amending it, are hereby appealed.

The next clause provides :

For the purposes of any Dominion election held within the limits of a province, except as hereinafter or otherwise provided,—

(a.) The qualifications necessary to entitle any person to vote thereat shall be those established by the laws of that province as necessary to entitle such person to vote in the same part of the province at a provincial election.

That is the clause that I have particular objection to, and I think that the Government should give this House some assurance that that portion of the Bill will be remedied, even before we go into committee. The other evening, the hon. Finance Minister brought to the notice of the House the Act of 1882, and that there was no law passed by the legislature of Nova Scotia prohibiting or disqualifying an elector from voting in the Dominion elections. On the spur of the moment, I replied that that was true, and to a certain extent it is. There was no actual law passed by the province of Nova Scotia disqualifying an elector from voting in the Dominion elections, but it is also true that the very same party machine who placed that obnoxious Act upon the local statutes of Nova Scotia put an Act upon the statutes of this Parliament providing that the same law shall affect electors in Nova Scotia voting for members to be returned to this Parliament. In order to place the matter thoroughly and clearly before the House, as I do not think it has yet been

Mr. KAULBACH.

done, I shall commence from the beginning and show the House very concisely and exactly what has been done. In the first place, the British North America Act was passed in 1867 by this House. Section 41 of that Act provides :

The qualifications and disqualifications in the provinces shall govern the election of members to serve in the House of Commons until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides.

Afterwards, in 1871, assented to April 4th, 1871, an Act was passed by the province of Nova Scotia to secure the independence of the House of Assembly of that province. That Act I read the other evening, and that is the obnoxious Act, that is the Act that disqualifies Dominion officials, particularly the employees of the Intercolonial, from voting for members of the House of Assembly in the province of Nova Scotia. That was the Act passed by the Nova Scotia Government at that time, and by which they determined to wipe out from the legislature of Nova Scotia and from Nova Scotia itself anything and everything that had the smell of Canada about it. I am now quoting from memory from the remarks of the Attorney General of that date when he introduced that Bill. On the 14th April, 1871, immediately following the passing of this obnoxious Act of Nova Scotia, there was enacted by the Dominion Parliament a Bill called the Interim Parliamentary Election Act of 1871, which was put in force for two years only, as shown by section 1. I will quote the section itself. It was evidently aimed to operate against the obnoxious Act passed in Nova Scotia that very month.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What is the date of it ?

Mr. MILLS. It was assented to on the 14th April, 1871, and the Act is entitled "An Act to make temporary provision for the election of members to serve in the House of Commons of Canada." And the first section of that says :

This Act shall be in force during two years from the time of the passage thereof and no longer, and may be cited as the Interim Parliamentary Elections Act, 1871.

Section 4 of that Act reads :

All persons nominated as revisers, under chap. 28 of the Acts of the Legislature of Nova Scotia passed in the year 1863, entitled "An Act to regulate the elections of members to serve in the General Assembly," shall, in the present year, 1871, in three months after the passing of this Act, and at any future year, at the time of their preparing the annual list of electors qualified to vote at elections of members of the General Assembly, prepare also and file with the clerk of the peace, a like alphabetical list of electors qualified to vote at elections of members to serve in the House of Commons of Canada, by adding to the list of voters for members of the General Assembly the names of all officials and employees of the Dominion Government qualified