

do not want that disfranchisement to continue for the purposes of the Dominion elections. I do not think anybody has asked for it. On the contrary the hon. Minister of Finance, when the principle of the Bill was under discussion, clearly intimated that there was no such intention on the part of the Government. That clearly was not their intention; and if this Bill, as it stands, without any amendment, should have the effect of disqualifying any Dominion officials from voting in Dominion elections, that is a pure accident and is not of the essence of the Bill and never was its intention. That was made so abundantly clear in the remarks of the Minister of Finance, when the principle of the measure was under discussion, that it is not necessary for me to enlarge on it now. At the same time I take this opportunity of calling the attention of the committee to the remarks of the hon. Minister of Finance on this branch of the question. They will be found on page 2869 of "Hansard." He said:

The disqualification which was created by that provincial franchise law of Nova Scotia does not touch the voters' lists at all.

Of course in that he was absolutely correct, and I do not think we ought to be compelled to argue that point for the fourth or fifth time. I was rather complained of by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) last night for having referred to it as frequently as I did, but I never did refer to it except when the argument was repeated. The hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills) interrupted the hon. Minister of Finance and agreed with him. He said:

I never heard any one say to the contrary in this House.

The hon. member for Annapolis agreed that he had never heard anybody say that it was intended that the disqualification created by the provincial franchise touched the voters' lists. The hon. Minister of Finance then said:

Then, if the names of the Dominion officials have always been on the lists used in the Dominion elections, what is all this fuss about?

Mr. MILLS. Because there was an Act passed disfranchising them from voting and that is engrafted in this Bill.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What right has this House to say to any independent legislature of any province how it shall deal with its own provincial franchise, so long as it does not touch the franchise of this House?

Mr. MILLS. It is going to do that.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is not, and never did.

Mr. MILLS. But that is the intention now.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, there never was any intention of doing that; it did not do it, and will not do it. I want it clearly understood, that, while there were good reasons—which I do not wish to enter into now, because that is a provincial question—for disqualifying the Dominion officials for provincial pur-

poses, that disqualification never touched the voters' lists at all.

Now, that is the position we are in—that this qualification does not touch the voters' lists, and has not touched the voters' lists since 1885—if it did before—when the Act which instructed the revisers to strike off the lists the names of Dominion officials, was explicitly and absolutely repealed. It was discovered, as any one could see—and I wonder that the contention opposed to this has been so often repeated—that you could not strike the names off the lists because it was impossible to tell that these parties would not be properly qualified to vote when an election came on. This shows that they were not disqualified as Dominion officials, but only as being Dominion officials up to within a short time of the election. Ever since that Act was repealed, these names have been on the lists, and all I seek by this amendment is to remove any doubt as to the right of these people to vote. I beg to move an amendment to subsection "a" of section 5. Subsection "a" which reads as follows:—

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.

I move that to this subsection the following words be added:—

Provided that any person whose name appears as a voter on any voters' list, and who would be qualified to vote at a provincial election, but from the fact of his being or having been an employee or in receipt of wages or emolument as an employee of any department of the Dominion or provincial government, shall be qualified to vote at an election of a member of the House of Commons, notwithstanding the provisions of any Act disqualifying him from voting at a provincial election.

Mr. McDOUGALL. With the hon. gentleman's permission, I would like to ask him a question. When was that Act repealed?

Mr. RUSSELL. In 1885, when the revised statutes of Nova Scotia were proclaimed.

Mr. McDOUGALL. The Act of 1871 was then repealed?

Mr. RUSSELL. The clause which directed the revisers to strike off the lists all those that were disqualified as officials, was repealed, I say, by the Act of 1885.

Mr. MONK. I do not think that the amendment of the hon. member (Mr. Russell) goes quite far enough, and I intend to propose an amendment covering the employees, both Dominion and provincial, whether they be on the list or not. It seems to me that the hon. gentleman is mistaken in saying that we on this side entered upon long disquisitions on constitutional law. I do not agree with him as to the scope of the discussion on this section. We have, by the second reading of this Bill, adopted the