

prised to hear a lawyer of the standing of the honourable member from Hamilton say it would be for a man who is on the list to bring proof of his right to be included rather than to require those who are attacking his right to prove that he is not entitled to vote. I am sure my honourable friend from Hamilton would never as a lawyer give that opinion which he is now supporting as a senator. A lawyer who would put that before a court of justice would be laughed at by the judge on the Bench. Now, those Nova Scotia lists are supposed to be correct, and have been accepted by everybody there; but both parties can make application for the addition of other names, such as women, soldiers, and others; then finally the judge will revise this list. Is that not fair? That is the principle maintained by the sub-amendment. Nobody can vote against this amendment unless he refuses the right to vote to those who are now on the Nova Scotia electoral list, or unless, with a partisan view, he wishes to make it a stuffed list, as the honourable member for De Salaberry has said. We on this side of the House may be accused of trying to favour the Liberals of Nova Scotia, and the other side may be accused of trying to favour the Conservatives there; but when we are prepared to take the opinion of the judges of the province, what can be said? We must stop accusations of partisanship at the door of the court-house at least. Can anybody deny that it is a fair proposition to leave to the county judges in the province the revision of the lists? That proposition is found in this amendment, which I will support with great pleasure.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: The subject for discussion before the House this afternoon is the province of Nova Scotia. I have the honour to come from a portion of Nova Scotia—the city of Halifax. Perhaps we have a pride in the metropolis of the province in supposing that we are equal in intelligence and repute to the people of any other county in Nova Scotia. We do not claim superiority in any respect, but simply an equality with the other counties of the province.

I think I may claim the right to say a word historically on the subject of elections in Nova Scotia, especially in the city of Halifax. My knowledge of elections began in the year 1847. I took part in the election of 1859, and I have had an intimate knowledge of all the elections that have taken place in the province since that date. I may say, with regard to the outside dis-

tricts in the county of Halifax, with which I am familiar, that the municipal council elects revisers, and they—both sides of politics being represented—make up the lists for country districts in the county. There is an appeal to the sheriff—

Hon. Mr. POWER: The honourable gentleman remembers that there is first a preliminary list made by the reviser who hears the appeals.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: Yes. I omitted that because it is patent to every one here that a list is first prepared, gone over, and posted up for the information of every one in the district.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: Will the honourable gentleman allow me to ask him a question?

Hon. Mr. ROCHE: I would much prefer that the honourable gentleman wait until the end of my remarks, when I will endeavour to answer him. I am not a legal man, and I do not think it is fair to break in on a layman. I may say that the sheriff of the county of Halifax has always been regarded as a model of fairness and impartiality. We had some objection to sheriff Archibald because we thought he rather leaned towards the Tories. He had been a Liberal, and fearing that it might be asserted that he leaned towards the Liberals, he took good care to give the Tories a fair proportion of everything they demanded, and as a result we rather complained that he leaned towards them. The present sheriff is Sheriff Hall. I think no one accuses him of partiality. I think he has evinced by the propriety of his conduct that he intends to act impartially. When the Tories get in they invariably thank and praise the sheriff for his impartiality, and afterwards say that he has conducted the elections with the utmost fairness and that they have full confidence in his decisions and in his conduct. When they do not get in, they are like bears with sore heads: everything has gone wrong; there has been partiality; there has been undue leaning; there has been misconduct. I am quite willing, so far as my little influence goes in the county and city of Halifax, to submit the question of appeal to the sheriff, to the county judge, to the judge of the Supreme Court, or to any of those gentlemen, who are above any imputation of wrong doing, and whose character and attainments would warrant that their decisions would be of the utmost fairness and according to law. So much for the sheriffs.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE.