

it. We read it as we thought it was our duty to read it, and applied it according to the purpose for which the legislature of Nova Scotia passed it. Our application of the Franchise Act of Nova Scotia was this. That Act conferred the right to vote, upon the basis of a property qualification, an income qualification; and a qualification consisting of both combined. The assessors prepared the first instalment of the electoral lists, and then posted up their lists so prepared in three public places in the various electoral districts. The revisers then took these lists and copied therefrom all names opposite which they found the requisite amount of property stated. These revisers did not know or could not be supposed to know whether these names were the names of Dominion officials or not. The next step was that any person finding that he had the requisite qualification made application to the revisers to have his name placed upon the list within a fixed date. The revisers again were not supposed to know whether these applicants received their income from the Dominion Government, from the local government, from a private corporation, or from an individual. It was not the business of the revisers to know this at all, nor did they ever, to my knowledge, take the trouble to know it. The revisers met at a time fixed by statute and received these applications, and there and then took down this list as the list of electors qualified to vote at municipal elections, and at elections for members of the legislature. I ask the hon. leader of the Opposition or the hon. member for Annapolis where was the right of any of these revisers to leave off any of the names of the applicants I have indicated? What proof, for example, could they furnish that this, that, or the other person was a Dominion official? All they required to know was that they possessed the necessary property or income qualification to entitle them to vote. The lists were then made up in this manner, comprising these two sets of qualified electors. When a municipal election took place, all whose names were on the list went to the polls to vote. If there was then any disqualification, under the Act of the legislature, the question of the disqualification came up in the polling booth. In the same manner, when the elections for the local legislature came off, the very same lists were applied, and again, if there was any disability under the Act, the challenge could be made in the polling booth. For example, in the year 1882, a provincial and a Dominion election took place in Nova Scotia. The lists then made by the municipal authorities were the lists upon which the Dominion elections were contested. The elector whose name was on both lists went into both booths on the same day; he would first go into the booth for the local legislature and poll his vote, and then go into the booth for the Dominion Parliament and poll his vote there

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness).

also; and it was left to the candidate whom he opposed, or his agent, to object to his vote on the ground that he was a Dominion official. I therefore cannot see for a moment where the great hardships depicted by the hon. member for Annapolis would come in, nor can I see, for the life of me, where the iniquities charged by the hon. leader of the Opposition came in. I represent a constituency comprising 27,000 of a population and with over 6,000 electors, and I have contested several elections there, Dominion and local, and in all my experience I never yet knew of an instance of a Dominion official being kept off the voters' lists. I have known of a few instances of such electors being challenged in the booths, but I never knew of an instance of a name being kept off the lists by the revisers in that constituency. So far as my knowledge goes, then, and I claim considerable acquaintance during that long term of service in the municipal council of Inverness, with the working of the Franchise Act in that constituency, and also considerable acquaintance with the work in other municipalities throughout the province, and I have never yet heard of a different order of things existing in any of these. Therefore I, for one, have no hesitation in declaring that the people of Nova Scotia are perfectly willing to have the franchises, Dominion, local and municipal, held in their own hands. If, for instance, an Indian in the province of Ontario desired to vote, as appears to be the case, from the memorials read in this House this evening, the people of Ontario would certainly have a better right to declare whether he should have the right to vote for the election of a member to this House than the people of Nova Scotia or any other province.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness). That is exactly what this Bill now before Parliament seeks to bring about, namely, that every elector in every province shall have the right to declare who is entitled to vote for a representative from that province to this House. As the right hon. leader of the House has very truly said, this has been the order of things for nineteen years, and from my knowledge of the history of that time, in the province from which I come, I feel satisfied that there was no justification for this Parliament passing a Dominion Franchise Act, owing to any difficulty existing in the application of the Nova Scotia franchise law. I therefore have no hesitation in supporting the Bill now before the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, asked me a question, and I propose to answer it very briefly. He asked me on what ground I challenged the mode in which they constructed the lists in Nova Scotia. He took up all the time in which he spoke in informing the House that he did not know how