

for the provincial and for the federal Houses and therefore the law cannot apply. Well, now, Mr. Speaker, I will not pretend to say that these arguments do not apply to the province of Ontario, but I do contend, and I think I shall be able to prove it in a few words, that none of them apply in the province of Quebec. In the province of Quebec, where I have had some considerable experience in preparing the electoral lists during my tenure of office as mayor of a municipality, I have found that the preparation of these lists did not cost one cent to the province nor did it cost more than a mere trifle to the municipality itself. There were no judges to be paid and no clerk to be paid for the revision of the lists. When the municipality prepares its valuation rolls, the electoral lists are prepared at the same time. Every year this valuation roll in each municipality is revised in the month of March, and when it is being revised these electoral lists are also revised by the members of the municipal council, presided over by the mayor, and with no officer either from the provincial government or from the Federal Government or from any other body to interfere with the preparation of these lists. And it is obligatory on each municipality of the province to prepare a list not only for the municipal elections, but for the provincial elections of the whole province of Quebec. This is done without expense to the province. The secretary-treasurer of each municipality has to put into the possession of the county secretary and of the provincial secretary a copy of each one of these lists without any charge. Therefore, the lists are confirmed and legalized. Now, I have never heard any objection made by any one to the preparation of these lists. They are not prepared by partisans, for my experience of municipal life in the province of Quebec is that municipal government is carried on without any political partisanship entering into the formation of its councils. I myself have had the honour of being the head of a council. The council was composed of seven members, of whom five were Conservatives. Yet I was elected by the Conservatives as their mayor, and never did there enter into the debates in council and never was anything done on political or party ground.

Mr. BERGERON. That is a model county.

Mr. STENSON. It is; it has been improving, until it now has a Liberal representative. That county was represented at the board by fourteen mayors of the fourteen municipalities constituting the county, and out of that county board, composed of fourteen mayors, I was the only Liberal mayor, and still I was elected warden of the county and president of that board. This I do not say through personal glorification, but to prove to you that in the province of

Quebec politics have nothing to do with our local organizations.

Mr. BERGERON. They would not have elected a Conservative if they were all Liberals.

Mr. STENSON. Why, certainly they would, if he was only qualified for the position, and if he was not qualified, they would not elect him.

Mr. BERGERON. You do not mean to say there was no Conservatives qualified.

Mr. STENSON. No distinction is made between Conservatives and Liberals, and the proof of that is that I worked to get a Conservative elected as mayor of the council when I was on it, and when there were only four Liberal councillors.

Mr. BERGERON. It is a good place.

Mr. STENSON. It is a good place, and it is improving. But for a number of years it was not so good, it was too Conservative. As the hon. member for Pontiac (Mr. Poupore) had said, every voter in the province of Quebec for municipal and provincial elections, is a bona fide voter, and that is the kind of voters we want. In the province of Quebec all these voters are bona fide voters. There is no officer that can be appointed either by the provincial or the federal authorities, who can know the bona fide voters as well as the neighbours of those bona fide voters, as well as those who conduct the local municipal business of all the bona fide voters, and of every interested party in that municipality. Those seven men composing the local council are chosen, as a general rule, from the different portions of the municipality; they are not all taken en bloc, they are chosen from the different sections and the different portions of that municipality. They are acquainted with all the surrounding families, they know exactly who are bona fide, and who are justly entitled to vote in their local affairs, they know exactly who are justly entitled to vote in provincial affairs; and I maintain that the man who is entitled to vote in local or provincial affairs is the man who is entitled to vote in Dominion affairs, and that each province should have the right of choosing those voters. Not only that, but I contend they are the best qualified to choose them. Each municipality is best qualified to choose its own electors, and those are the electors which cannot be improved upon by any outsider, even if you get a revising officer to go in there. Now, our experience has been that when the revising officer came in to prepare the federal lists, he took those local lists and examined them to see if the qualifications of the federal Act were exactly similar to those of the local Acts. If they were not he had either to strike off a few, and they were but very few, or he had to add a few, and they were but very few. Now, there was a