

What is the result? When a list is revised, page after page is added, and names are interlined, and others struck out. Surely, the hon. gentleman must see that a voters' list prepared under those circumstances is simply an absurdity.

When I was interrupted a little while ago, I was speaking on the question of cost, and I was showing that the municipalities are first taxed, and heavily taxed, for the revision of those lists for local purposes, and then they will be taxed for their revision for Dominion purposes. Assuming that next year there will be an election for the Dominion, and assuming that we were preparing the voters' lists of this year, 1898, then, the unfortunate municipalities would be visited with another and a heavy cost. But it is not only the country municipalities that will have to pay, but look at the immense cost that will be imposed on the cities. In Toronto, I have no doubt that the cost of revising the local voters' lists, under the system of registration, runs up to \$3,000. In the city of Brantford, I was informed the other night by the representative of South Brantford, that the cost of revising the voters' lists amounted to \$450; in the town of Stratford, it was \$600, and in the town of St. Thomas, about the same amount. And yet you are telling the people in the country that you are going to wipe out this expense. You are not going to wipe it out at all, but you are going to shift the burden of expense from the Dominion to the municipalities. We all know that whichever party may be in power, a certain amount of information will be given their supporters as to when they had better prepare for the revision of the voters' lists. What will be the result? If we had a revision of the voters' lists under the Dominion system, then there would be only a close investigation and a close revising of the lists for one year. But what state will we be in, if this Bill is adopted? A candidate who has not a side line of information from the Government will be in this position. He will say to himself that, in the ordinary course of events, an election is not likely to be held until next year, but for fear the Government may appeal to the country before that, he will say: I will not be caught napping, but will go to the expense of revising the lists for this year. The result will be, that in an average riding of ten municipalities—and I am not including a town where there would be registration—the cost would be, likely, upwards of \$600. Should the Government not go to the country on the lists prepared that year, then the candidate would, of necessity, be forced to go over the same ground in a subsequent year, and \$600 more would be piled up on the riding that year. And if there had been a local election but a year or two before, the result would be, that the unfortunate municipalities in Ontario would each have about \$180 muni-

cipal tax imposed on them in a period of three years. That cannot be gainsaid, because the figures are there. Where is the unfortunate candidate to be? In the first place, the revision of the voters' lists for the local elections is, as I have contended, much more expensive. The manhood franchise lists for the local elections are the creation of friendly assessors. I have known assessors who have made for Conservatives nearly as good a list as could be made, but I have known Liberal assessors who have made for Conservative candidates as bad a list as could be made, and as correspondingly good ones as they could make for the Liberals, because the law does not impose on them the duty to treat Liberals and Conservatives alike, but states that they shall put on the list the names of persons who tender their names. The unfortunate part of the case will come in where you reach a large city, and I ask the hon. Solicitor General to bear this strongly in mind. If next year the hon. gentlemen who represent the city of Toronto were to undertake a revision of the voters' lists in that city, what would be the result? They would be put to an enormous expense, because their party friends would have to go about and collect the information for registration. It is true that the city would not be put to the expense of two years succeeding each other, because, as I understand the Bill, there would be in the cities a system of registration preceding a Dominion election, such as there is for the local elections now, but the hon. gentleman must remember that the candidate, anticipating an election, has a lot of expense to go to in a large city in order to find the names; and, as a result, after the adoption of this Bill, he will be, in all probability, put to a large expense. I tell the hon. gentleman that it is unfair for the Dominion to subject the local municipalities to this cost. Why should he impose on each township in my riding, for two years in succession, the cost of \$75 or \$80 in having the local voters' lists revised for federal purposes? The whole question comes to this, that we have set aside the principle of uniformity, and that is no longer in discussion. But what we should have is honest lists, and I submit that the Solicitor General should not ask hon. gentlemen on this side to go into an election contest on voters' lists that offer such facilities for fraud and wrong-doing. It is a monstrous proposition that these lists should be left in the hands of friendly returning officers all over the country for two or three days, so that, if these officers permit them to lie around, they may be tampered with by any person and names scored out and others inserted, thus depriving some men of their votes and giving votes to others not entitled to be on the roll. The question of expense should never come into consideration at all, compared with the question of having honest voters'