

voting in Nova Scotia, but only those who have been in receipt of wages or emoluments within fifteen or thirty days of a Dominion election. If the hon. gentleman will do me the justice to apply his strong, vigorous intellect to this question, he will see in a moment that I am right, and there is no need for an appeal from Pilate to Cæsar. In fact, I did not suppose there was any appeal from Pilate to Cæsar, but there was an appeal from another functionary to Cæsar. However, I am not going to discuss Scripture with my hon. friend, because on that subject he would be the better authority. But I wish to point out again that it was impossible for the revisers, in making up their lists in February, March or April, to decide that any given official of the Dominion Government would be disqualified or not at the next provincial election in which those lists would be used.

For he would not be disqualified unless he continued to be a Dominion official up to 15 days before the time when the election was held. Therefore, it was discovered that it was an absurd thing to have that statute striking the names off the lists or preventing them going on the lists, and the clause of the statute which contained that enactment was, therefore, very properly repealed, and ever since 1885, if not before, the names of these Dominion officials who possessed the qualifications for voting have always been placed upon the lists. They are placed upon the list at this day, and very properly so, and the revisers, so far from perjuring themselves by putting them on the lists, would perjure themselves if they did not do so—they are bound to put them on the lists, it is their legal duty, and they know their duty so well that they always put them on the lists. I think that is a fair and square statement of the case under the statute and under the existing state of affairs in Nova Scotia.

Now, seeing that a discursive debate is to be held, that hon. gentlemen opposite insist that we shall not be confined to the matters immediately under the attention of the committee, I wish to call the attention of my hon. friend, and of other gentlemen on the other side who are so passionately devoted to the rights of the independent electors of the Dominion, to the way in which the supposed evil inflicted on the country by the Nova Scotia statute of 1871 was remedied by the Dominion Act passed in 1882. They were very anxious about the rights of voters about that time. They discovered that if they adopted the franchise law of the province of Nova Scotia, a number of Dominion officials of various kinds would be disfranchised, officials in the post office, in the custom-house, in the inland revenue department, in the lighthouse service, on Government railroads, in the Crown lands office and in the local public works and mines. These men are entitled to their

votes. We say they are entitled to their votes as electors of members for the Dominion Parliament, and we intend to see that their votes shall be preserved them by an Act of this Parliament. Well, what did these hon. gentlemen do to give these men the franchise and remove that mischief? So far as I can understand, and unless something can be pointed out to me to justify a different conclusion, I say that what they did was to take one favoured class out of these proscribed classes and give the vote to that class and to no other.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Is that the subject before the Chair?

Mr. RUSSELL. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) is very sensitive now about wandering from the subject before the Chair. We are discussing the law of Nova Scotia and it is necessary for us to go into the history of the enactments in that connection. I propose to read an amendment put upon the Statute-book of the Dominion on a similar line to the one which we propose to-day, to show how much more restricted it is. Here is the amendment:

Notwithstanding anything in the law of the province of Nova Scotia or of the Dominion of Canada, no employee of the Intercolonial Railway in that province shall be disqualified to vote as an elector at any future election of a member or members to serve in the House of Commons of Canada, if he shall have the necessary property and other qualifications therefor required by law. In the event of the name of any such elector being an employee of the Intercolonial Railway, having been omitted by the revisers from the lists of qualified voters for a member of the General Assembly of Nova Scotia under the laws in force in that province, or to be returned to the county clerks or clerks of the peace, or omitted from the lists of voters deposited by the sheriff with the county clerks or clerks of the peace or obtained by the returning officer, or furnished to the deputy returning officer, it shall be lawful for such employee to vote as an elector at any future election of a member or members to serve in the House of Commons of Canada, on his taking or offering to take before the sheriff or returning officer the following oath:—

Now, were there no other persons than employees of the Intercolonial Railway disfranchised by the Act which the hon. gentleman characterized as so iniquitous and unjust? What about those in the post office, in the custom-house, in the Inland Revenue Department, in the lighthouse, on Government railroads, and in the Crown lands office, and in the local public works and mines? If I am right—and I am ready to receive light on the subject, and will be glad to receive it at this moment, if the hon. gentleman can show me that I am mistaken—if I am right, they left out all these disfranchised people except those on the Intercolonial Railway. Those they could take. I suppose, on trolleys and vote them where they wanted to, and those who would not vote for them they could conveniently ar-

Mr. RUSSELL.