

Revenue Department, the lighthouse service, on the Government railroads, in the Crown lands office, or the local public works and mines.

These are the persons who are enumerated and all these are disqualified.

Mr. RUSSELL. From what ?

Mr. FOSTER. From going upon the list.

Mr. RUSSELL. Not at all.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, they are disqualified from voting.

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, in the local elections in Nova Scotia.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, if they are disqualified from voting, can they go on the list ?

Mr. RUSSELL. They must go on the list.

Mr. FOSTER. Why must they go on the list ?

Mr. RUSSELL. Because the law puts them on the list.

Mr. FOSTER. The law puts them on the list then, and the law explicitly states that they are disqualified from voting.

Mr. RUSSELL. Exactly.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that the kind of law you have in Nova Scotia ?

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, that is exactly the kind of law we have.

Mr. FOSTER. Then it is worse than I thought it was. It is an immoral law ; it is a cheat ; it is a fraud. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Russell) says that they have a law in Nova Scotia which in the first place declares that certain men are disqualified to vote, and in the second place puts them upon the list as if to tell them that they can vote. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) think that that is an honest law ?

Mr. RUSSELL. Have you not many men on your lists who cannot vote, if challenged ?

Mr. FLINT. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) allow me ?

Mr. FOSTER. No. I cannot be interrupted any longer. I will have the whole horde interrupting me if I allow it to continue. The pertinacious member from Halifax (Mr. Russell) is all I can get along with. He is up on his feet every two or three minutes, and as he knows something of what he is talking about as a rule, I will take his interruptions as best I can. So much with reference to Nova Scotia. The contention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Russell) is that disqualified men can get upon the list, and if that be so there is something very wrong with the machinery, and if they do get upon the list when they come to vote they cannot vote, for if there are sharp men at the poll they will challenge that vote. And there will be sharp men at the poll who will challenge that vote ; party

men on both sides are there for that purpose and they will do it. The absolute actual effect will be that at the voting these men will be disqualified from voting. The oath will be put to them there, they will be objected to, and they will be unable to vote. Now, Sir, we are on the same ground on these terms. Therefore, I say the absolute effect in the ultimate resort will be this, that in Nova Scotia that class of people cannot vote for a Dominion representative, and are consequently disqualified entirely. We cannot but agree on this point, that under the existing law they are not qualified to vote ; my hon. friend will not deny that ; so that when this Bill becomes law, these gentlemen, thousands of them, who to-day are qualified to vote, will then be disqualified to vote. Now, I ask what right has my right hon. friend or a majority of this House to disfranchise thousands of the citizens of this country, just as intelligent as we are who sit and vote in this House ? I say that this is a retrograde movement ; that it is unjust ; and although there may be the mechanical majority to force it through the House, it does not lose one iota of its injustice or one shade of its retrograde character. My hon. friend the Solicitor General saw that, and he sees it yet, and in the course of the afternoon's debate he was quite willing to take that matter into consideration, with the view of preserving the right of the intelligent white voter who to-day in the different provinces has the franchise, prizes it, considers it a part of his citizenship, and will feel aggrieved if deprived of it. I can go to other provinces and show the same thing to exist there. My hon. friend has said that in the province of Quebec there are no persons to-day qualified to vote on a provincial franchise basis, who will be disqualified if this Act is put through. I do not think my hon. friend is right in that ; let us see. We find the list of disqualifications in Quebec at present on page 6.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I was speaking of Dominion officials.

Mr. FOSTER. I am speaking of voters. Does my hon. friend rest his case simply on Dominion officials ? He does not deny that people vote there to-day in a Dominion election who would not be qualified to vote in a Dominion election if this Bill becomes law.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL. The employees of the local government are disqualified under the local Act passed by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) two years ago. Among the Dominion officials there is not a single disqualification.

Mr. FOSTER. I am not concerned as to who passed the Act. Now, I have what