

Mr. BENNETT. I thought that other gentleman from East Huron would at least have possessed his soul in patience, but he, like the other hon. gentleman, seems to glory in his shame.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). We have no shame to glory in.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, I will accept the hon. gentleman's word that he has no shame. I say it is no business of the assessor to make himself a political machine for either party, to go about finding these so-called manhood suffrage voters. The Bill provides that he shall make reasonable inquiries in order to ascertain what persons are entitled to go on in that form. But there is no penalty prescribed if he does not place them on the list. In the very county of Huron there were practically none of these men placed on the list before last year, and then a large sum was expended to have them put on in view of the coming election. The hon. gentleman says look at the penalties prescribed. Does he not know that in Ontario any man can, in the interest of the local government, defy the law, and he will be whitewashed by the Ontario local government. He should know that as an employee of the Ontario Government, because he has been in receipt of hundreds of dollars from the local government as lecturer to the farmers' institutes, and I do not wonder at his coming to the defence of his friends. It is notorious that in Ontario most disgraceful things have been done by the local officers. We know that in a case at Rat Portage the local government intervened and whitewashed the man and prevented the possibility of his being sent to jail.

The hon. gentleman knows very well that the lists in Ontario have always had more or less, a tinge of suspicion about them, and he knows very well, and I believe that is why he contends for the carrying of this Act, that the voters' lists as printed in this form will offer facility for wrong-doing and will not give the country the perfect list that the present law affords. Not only does the law contemplate that the assessor is not bound to make this inquiry, but it further says that if the assessor has omitted a name from the list, by placing an affidavit in the hands of the assessor the party is entitled to have his name upon the lists. I contend again that everything I said this afternoon is quite borne out by the facts.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMILLAN), I am quite sure, read the Act correctly, but his interpretation of it is not correct, for he made his statement this afternoon and it was backed up by the hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald) and several other hon. members that the ten copies of the Ontario lists furnished to members of this House and to defeated candidates for this House were the certified and corrected lists.

Mr. BENNETT.

Mr. McMILLAN. No. I never said that; do not put that to my charge, for I knew better.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) made it, then, and several members backed him up in it.

Mr. McMILLAN. I cannot help that, I did not make it.

Mr. TAYLOR. Now, I have here lists for 1897—

Mr. McMILLAN. I admit that these lists are not the revised copies.

Mr. TAYLOR. I was going to say that I had the lists for nine-tenths of the municipalities in my constituency. There was one short, and I wrote to the clerk of the municipality for it, the list for South Crosby. I have it here, and here is one polling subdivision in which eight or ten names, and another some twenty names are added by the judge; and, as my hon. friend from East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) says, in many places there are even erasures, names struck out by the judge. Now, as the ten copies that are supplied to us do not contain these changes, what good are the lists to us? There are no copies of the final lists except the three copies revised by the judge, one copy kept for himself, one for the clerk of the peace and a third for the clerk of the municipality.

Then, when the election comes on are these lists reprinted and distributed? No, they are simply poll-books made out. And I want to ask the Solicitor General what he calls a "poll-book." What is the meaning of "poll-book" if it is not the very identical book that is made by the clerk of the municipality from the revised copy furnished by the judge? That is taken by the deputy returning officer and is the poll-book. If this book is sent out with some names written in, and some others struck out, what is to prevent the deputy returning officer from striking out any names he pleases? The voter comes in, but the deputy returning officer has run his pen through the name, and the man is not allowed to vote. He can get a tendered ballot if he swears he is the party named or purporting to be named, and that he has a right to vote; but that tendered ballot is not counted except in the case of a protest. I saw that myself in a case in the last election. A man came forward. His name was on the list, but it was misspelled, a letter or two being wrong. He took the oath that he was the person named or purporting to be named that he owned the property in respect of which the vote was given, but he was only given a tendered ballot and his ballot did not count—all this because his name was given as "Joseph T" when it should only have been "Joseph." I rose to correct the statement that the lists sent out are the revised lists.

Mr. McMILLAN. I am aware of that.