

appeal to the Solicitor General, and I am prepared—I do not hesitate to say—to accept the Solicitor General's ruling. If he says that I am wrong and that the hon. member for Halifax is right, I shall begin to doubt the strength of the position I occupy. But what are the facts? Those revisers are sworn to put only the names on the voters' lists of those entitled to vote, and they perjure themselves if they do what the hon. gentleman says they ought to do and what they have done.

Mr. RUSSELL. If the hon. gentleman will allow me—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not surprised that my hon. friend is so very restive because I have appealed from Pilate to Cæsar, and therefore he has grown a little restless. If that very election law declares that A, B and C shall not be entitled to have their names on the list, then the revisers, who are sworn to put only the names on the list of those who are not disqualified by any clause of this Act, will have perjured themselves if they put those names on.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. But if the Act does not say so.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The Act does.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The legal gentlemen say it does not.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not wonder that the hon. Minister of Finance is glad to crawl under the cloak of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) in a question of this kind. If common law is common sense, and the Act declares that a certain number of persons shall be disqualified and instructs the revisers not to put their names on the list, there is an end to the question, and it is waste of time discussing it further. I might tell my hon. friend who has moved this amendment that evidently the Government have become awake to the fact that this measure which they have proposed would, in its present form, be most improper, and that the adoption, pure and simple, of the voters' list prepared for the local elections, would disfranchise thousands of men throughout this Dominion, and the very best men qualified to exercise the franchise. I therefore am glad to find that my hon. friend the Solicitor General is willing to meet the difficulty by some such amendment as is proposed by the hon. member for Halifax, but I shall tell him wherein that amendment fails entirely to accomplish its object. It contains the same vice that is contained in the provincial law. Under that law, we cannot get these names on the voters' lists, and therefore this amendment falls entirely to meet the case. This amendment provides that any person whose name appears as a voter on any voters' list, and because he is disqualified to vote at

the provincial election, from the fact of his being an employee of the Dominion or provincial government, shall be qualified to vote at a Dominion election. But that will not enable us to get the names of these persons put on the list. As the law stands, it is impossible to get their names on, and therefore, even with this amendment, they will be disfranchised all the same. I draw the attention of the hon. Solicitor General to this, and ask him that this amendment should be amended as is proposed by the amendment of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk):

Provided that notwithstanding anything in any law of any province no official or employee of the Federal Government or of the provincial or local governments, regular soldiers, or persons enrolled in the military schools or in receipt of wages from either of the governments, shall be disqualified from voting as an elector at any future election for the House of Commons. That will cover the case.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am obliged to say that neither amendment will meet the case. The amendment of my hon. friend from Halifax would, in my judgment, meet the case of Nova Scotia, but these amendments are not sufficient, because they do not provide the machinery. I have an amendment which, I think, will go further than either.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then perhaps it would be as well if my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) would withdraw his amendment to the amendment so that we might hear the amendment of the Solicitor General.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The motion has not been put to it.

Mr. RUSSELL. I do not wish to weary the House with the contention that has been raised between the hon. leader of the Opposition and myself, but I do feel that, in justice to myself, I should explain the reason why I think he did not do full justice to even my very poor and humble merits as an expositor of the construction of a statute. I pointed out to the House that there was an Act passed in Nova Scotia in the year 1871 or 1872, which continued to exist for some years, under which it was improperly made the duty of the revisers to leave off from the lists the names of persons whom they supposed to be disqualified by virtue of their holding Dominion offices up to with fifteen or thirty days, as the case might be, of the holding of a Dominion election. I pointed out further that very soon it was discovered that the Act required the revisers to have some process of divination by which, months or years before an election, they could discover what Dominion officials would and would not be disqualified at the time an election happened to be pending. My hon. friend has entirely overlooked the fact that it is not Dominion officials, as such, who are disqualified from