

the obligation now of preparing the local lists; and the question in my mind is, what right has this Parliament to direct the work of these provincial officers? There is no provision for their payment by this Parliament, and there is no provision for a separate and distinct appointment. They are only referred to as officers of the provincial legislature, whether appointed by the provincial legislature or by the municipalities acting under an Act of the provincial legislature. Then, there is: "the imposition of punishment by fine, penalty or imprisonment for enforcing any law of the province made in relation to any matter coming within any of the classes of subjects enumerated in this section." The provincial Act provides for the punishment of any local official for refusing or neglecting to perform any of the duties this Parliament is placing upon him. I would like the hon. Solicitor General to consider this section of the Act in conjunction with the other one to which I referred.

Mr. KAULBACH. I feel it my duty as a Nova Scotian and representing a constituency in that province, to offer a remark or two. I have no hesitation in stating that this Franchise Bill is most unpopular, as it does not meet the wishes of the honest, unbiased, and intelligent electorate of this country, inasmuch as it does not grant to every elector of the Dominion, at least so far as Nova Scotia is concerned, that freedom of thought and action, that right of citizenship, that freedom of loyalty and devotion to national sentiment and feeling that should possess an independent spirit, when it rejects, restricts, or rather deprives a voter of his right of franchise so dear to him, because, forsooth, he is the incumbent of a certain office under the Crown,

The most disgraceful part is that appended to this Bill as a memorandum to provincial laws, in which Nova Scotia is coupled under the heading of "Disqualification of Voters," which reads as follows:—

Revised Statutes chap. 4, sec. 67.

Any one who within fifteen days before the election was an employee, or in the receipt of wages or emoluments of any kind as such employee, in the post office, the customs-house, the Inland Revenue Department, the lighthouse service, on the Government railroads, in the Crown lands office or the local public works and mines, but nothing in section to extend to contractors to furnish materials for Government railroads, or to perform any other specific contract in respect of the same or to any person who may have been employed by the day temporarily to repair railroads, or to any postmaster, post office keeper, way office keeper or mail courier.

Is it fair or just to discriminate in this way, and thereby deprive a class of voters of their just franchise, of their right of citizenship, and their freedom to exercise their views as they consider in the best interests of the country? It certainly is not, and the intelligent electorate will decide against it. This

class of men as a rule are more intelligent and better capable of discriminating between right and wrong than most others. I say to allow this clause 67 of chap. 4 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia to remain on the statute-books, is an insult to the intelligent electorate, a menace upon the civil rights of the people of the country, more particularly upon Nova Scotia, an exhibition of cowardice, a legacy of lasting disgrace to the legislature of Nova Scotia, and a stain on the pages of history. The hon. Minister of Finance will surely not say that this section as referred to does not disfranchise this class of people who should be voters. They have been disfranchised since 1871, and this Act has operated against them in Nova Scotia ever since, so far as the provincial elections are concerned, and to repeal the present Franchise Act of 1885 and adopt the present provincial Act will be infamous, and an outrage upon this class of people, numbering about one thousand.

Now, I ask, is it fair to still continue this clause in the Nova Scotia Act and make it operative against this class of intelligent and valuable citizens, depriving white men of their rights of citizenship and giving it to Indians? Whilst I do not object to the latter, I certainly do consider the white men should be placed on an equal footing. The hon. Minister of Finance says these officers as named in the clause of the Act referred to will appear in the revised list as voters as well as others, which may be true, or it may not, but so long as this clause which I have referred to should remain unrepealed, their names if on the voters' list can be expunged, and will be before the list passes into the returning officer's hands, and if not then, they certainly will be when the elector appears at the polls, as the agent or inspector of a candidate will require each person so registered to take the oath. I do urge and am most sincere in my request that the Government adopt manhood suffrage, and the infliction of a heavy penalty upon any person offering or receiving a bribe to vote, and I particularly ask that the Government will see proper to inflict a heavier penalty on officials found mutilating or manipulating ballots, or caught at any other infringement of the election law. Dismissal from office would be too trivial. I would say they be disfranchised, and imprisoned for a period not exceeding five years.

Amendment (Mr. Heyd) re Indians, negatived.

Mr. RUSSELL. I wish to move an amendment for the purpose of removing any doubt that may exist regarding the qualification of Dominion officials in the province of Nova Scotia or any of the other provinces. There is no doubt that persons who may not be qualified to vote in provincial elections, for reasons which do not and ought not to apply to their qualification to vote in a Dominion election, should not, on account of their provincial disqualification, be deprived