

hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) makes is, that certain people in the province of Nova Scotia who ought to be voters are disqualified from being put upon the list, and I ask him if it is his reading of the statute, that any person, or taking the matter in the concrete, that Dominion officials as such are disqualified from being put upon the lists of voters in the province of Nova Scotia. I distinguish, remember, between being put upon the list and being capable of voting. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) has acumen enough to see that.

Mr. FOSTER. I will take my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) upon one ground first, and then go to the other. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) think that it is a dignified position for him to take as a representative of the people, to argue about a mere quibble?

Mr. RUSSELL. I do not.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, is my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) attaching any weight at all to the question he put?

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, I am.

Mr. FOSTER. Suppose that the wrong man gets upon the list, and suppose that when the man comes up to vote some one is there who knows he ought not to be upon the list and puts the oath to him or challenges him, can he vote?

Mr. RUSSELL. My hon. friend knows—

Mr. FOSTER. Can he vote?

Mr. RUSSELL. No, he cannot vote at a provincial election if he is challenged.

Mr. FOSTER. He cannot vote if he is challenged.

Mr. RUSSELL. Excuse me for one moment. Surely my hon. friend (Mr. Foster), who is a sharp reasoner sees exactly the fallacy he is endeavouring to impose upon this House. Is it not altogether a different thing, the right to be put upon the list which we say is going to be the list of voters for the Dominion Parliament, and the right to vote in a local election although being upon the list when the party is challenged and his vote is prevented from being recorded. Surely my hon. friend cannot fail to see that difference. Suppose that under this Bill, as we understand it,—and if there is any obscurity in it, it can be made plain—suppose that every person whose name is put upon the list is to be eligible as a voter for a member of the Dominion Parliament, and suppose also we say that as a matter of legal contention, and construction, and universal practice in the province of Nova Scotia, every person who possesses the necessary property or income qualification is to be upon the list notwithstanding the fact that he may be a Dominion official, does my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) say that any Dominion official will be disqualified by the operation of this clause?

Mr. RUSSELL.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Russell) say they are not?

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, I will certainly say they are not intended to be disqualified.

Mr. MILLS. The intention and the fact are different things.

Mr. RUSSELL. I do not wish to deal with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) now as it is not my intention to take the floor from the ex-Minister of Finance, but I do want an opportunity of explaining this matter. Surely my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) did not listen to the explanation given a while ago, namely, that the very clause of the statute of 1871 which did prevent these persons from being put upon the lists was expressly repealed, by the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, and ever since 1885 they have had the right to be put on the lists. If we adopt that list as the basis of the Dominion franchise they can only be disfranchised by putting some oath to them which will disqualify them. Of course in local elections there is an oath which can be put to them and which disqualifies them. It is for us to say whether we shall have the disqualification here or not.

Mr. FOSTER. Is my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) through now?

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Entirely through.

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, he has made speech No. 10 as a sort of interpolation between the speeches of other hon. gentlemen when they are trying to put their views before the House. Now, Sir, to commence where I left off when my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) interrupted me, I make again this assertion, that what the Prime Minister proposes to do is to say that the provincial lists shall be the lists upon which Canadian electors shall vote for Dominion representatives. That is a ground I suppose we all agree upon. Then I go to the lists themselves. I do not go any further for the present than the information which I have here, and I take what the Government itself gives for our information as to who are qualified to be put upon the list and who are not. I find then with reference to Nova Scotia to take a concrete instance, the classes of persons who are declared to be disqualified and are not eligible to go upon the lists.

Mr. RUSSELL. Who do you say they are?

Mr. FOSTER. I will give them to the hon. gentleman, or he can read them for himself at page 6 of the appendix to the Bill. These are they:

Any one who, within fifteen days before the election, was an employee or in receipt of wages or emoluments of any kind as such employee, in the post office, the custom-house, the Inland