

WAR-TIME ELECTIONS ACT.

DEBATE ON MOTION FOR THIRD
READING.

On the Order:

Resuming the adjourned debate on motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, that Bill 133, the War-Time Elections Act, as amended, be now read a third time, and the motion in amendment of the Hon. Mr. Ross (Middleton), thereto, also the motion of the Hon. Mr. Béique in amendment to the amendment, etc.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, I am still hopeful that we may be able to arrive at a mutual understanding as to what amendment may be made to the Bill. My honourable friend from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Béique) was good enough to lend his good offices in calling a conference of some of the Nova Scotia Liberal members of the House of Commons. That conference is still discussing the question. I therefore move that the debate be adjourned until the afternoon sitting of the Senate, and that we adjourn until three o'clock this afternoon.

The debate was adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until three o'clock this afternoon.

Second Sitting.

The Senate met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

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The Senate resumed the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed that Bill 133, the War-time Elections Act, as amended, be now read a third time, and the motion in amendment of Hon. W. B. Ross, and also the motion of Hon. Mr. Béique in amendment to the amendment.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: Honourable gentlemen, as my name was mentioned by the honourable leader of the Government at this morning's sitting in connection with a conference which met for the purpose of arriving at an agreement as to the amendment in question, I think it my duty to state that the parties have been unable to come to an agreement, and to state what is the point of difference between them.

It will be recalled that the motion of the honourable member from Middleton (Hon. W. B. Ross) was based on the allegation that in the province of Nova Scotia the revising officer was appointed by the local

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

Government, and that in certain cases he had not revised the lists as he should have done. It was suggested by the amendment that the revising officer, who, in each district or county in Nova Scotia is the sheriff, should be superseded by the enumerator to be appointed by the Government under this Act when it is passed.

To this we on this side of the House answered that it was nothing short of substituting for one political appointment another political appointment; that if, as was claimed, there was need for any redress, we were quite willing to forego the present method of revising the lists, and to allow the judges of the province to revise them de novo and to hear applications for the insertion of names, or for the removal of other names. Objection was taken to that, and the proposition embodied in the sub-amendment which I had the honour to propose yesterday, was made instead.

At the conference we submitted the following amendment by way of compromise:

In the province of Nova Scotia any enumerator, candidate or elector in any electoral district may, at any time previous to fifteen days before the date of polling, apply by way of appeal to the judge of the County Court for the judicial district in which such electoral district is situate, or to a judge of the Supreme Court of the province who may be allocated to the said electoral district by the Chief Justice of the said Court, upon the application therefor by the judge of the County Court for the judicial district in which such electoral district is situate, to add to the existing list the names of any persons who, according to the laws of the province, should have been added thereto when the said list was made, and to strike therefrom the names of such persons as should not have been allowed to remain thereon according to the laws of the province when the said list was so made. The said County or Supreme Court judge shall have power to entertain and dispose of all such applications or appeals, and shall prescribe such procedure as to notice, evidence or otherwise as in his judgment may be fair and reasonable; provided, however, that no person shall be struck off the said list without having received five days' notice of the intention so to do, either by personal service or by mailing a registered letter, postage prepaid, to said elector to the address given in said list or to his last known address.

The said judge shall, not later than the thirteenth day prior to the election, furnish the proper returning officer with the complete list of all names added to or removed from the said electoral list for the said electoral district, and the said returning officer shall allocate the same to the several proper polling subdivisions and furnish a copy of such changes and allocations to all candidates not later than ten days before polling day.

To this three exceptions were taken. First, it was claimed that the judges would not have time to make the revision, and that it would be necessary to empower the judges