

Mr. CHARLTON. I presume my hon. friend from Sherbrooke (Mr. Ives) will be at liberty, at the proper time, to suggest any amendment to this Bill which he may desire.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I would ask my hon. friend if he will add to his Bill a clause providing the same penalties against any candidate who says if he succeeds in his election, and if his party succeeds in coming into power, they will assist railways by subsidies?

Mr. CHARLTON. I have no objection to make the Bill more stringent in its provisions. When the Bill comes under discussion, I will be most happy to receive the suggestion of the hon. the leader of the Government.

Mr. DAVIES (P. E. I.) The hon. gentleman has attached to his Bill certain penalties on account of promises, when they emanate from members of the Cabinet. Very high officials of the Government are employed to make these promises, and I would suggest that the names of these officials be included.

Mr. CHARLTON. That is provided for by the Bill.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Would the provisions of this Bill refer to the High Commissioner? I think it would be very necessary to have a clause especially referring to that gentleman.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think you will need to have a special Act, pure and simple, for the benefit of the High Commissioner.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

ELECTORAL FRANCHISE ACT.

Mr. EDGAR moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 4) to amend the Electoral Franchise Act. He said: Whether we decide to retain the present Dominion Franchise law or whether we decide to abandon it, as I hope we shall, I propose to test the feeling of the House upon introducing the principle of a franchise based upon "one man one vote." Of course, if Parliament decides to abandon the Dominion Franchise Act we shall, at least so far as the Province of Ontario is concerned, have this principle in operation in that Province. I think the members of the Local Assembly in the Province of Ontario, on both sides, are very well satisfied, indeed, with the practical character of that system of voting. Not discussing it any further, I beg leave to move the first reading of the Bill.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 5) to amend the Dominion Elections Act. He said: The Bill proposes to amend the Act in two particulars--first, as regards the oath of qualification. At present, as I construe the law, a person living in the United States can very well, though an American citizen, take the oath that he is a British subject by birth, and thus become a voter in this country. I propose, therefore, to amend the second paragraph of the oath of qualification in such a way as to require the voter to swear that, in addition to being a British subject, he is not a subject of any foreign power. The other particular in which the Bill proposes to

amend the Act is, to my mind, very important. The instructions given to deputy returning officers in the 45th and 46th sections of the Act are clear enough; but the rules given in the schedule for the guidance of voters at elections, to which, I think, deputy returning officers pay more attention, are so confusing that I do not hesitate to say that any deputy returning officer who is not a lawyer or a law student might very well make the mistake, which many deputy returning officers made in the last election, of putting the number as well as his initials on the back of the ballot paper. The two sections which I have mentioned make it very plain that the deputy returning officer shall number the counterfoil and place his initials on the back of the ballot paper; but the instructions contained in form "M" of the first schedule state:

"The voter will then fold the ballot, so as to show a portion of the back only, with the number and the initials of the deputy returning officer."

I submit that any lawyer reading these words might make the mistake which many deputy returning officers made in the last election. I would ask the Government, on the second reading of this Bill, to refer it to a special committee, in order that anything else which may be found confusing in the Act may be done away with. We must not forget that the Act provides for a very large number of polling sub-divisions--I think thirty or forty would be the average in a constituency--thus necessitating a very large number of officials. It is impossible to get lawyers or people versed in the law to act as revising officers; we are compelled to ask farmers' sons, clerks and others to undertake that work; and I think both sides of the House will agree that it is our duty to make the provisions of the Act as clear as possible.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether, in case a deputy returning officer fails to place his initials on the back of the ballot and the number on the counterfoil, his conduct should affect the seat of the member?

Mr. WOOD (Brockville). I should be glad to receive any suggestion from the hon. member when the Act comes to its second reading, because my only object is to make the Act as clear as possible.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

ALIEN LABOUR ACT.

Mr. TAYLOR moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 6) to prohibit the importation and migration of foreigners and aliens under contracts or agreement to perform labour in Canada.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

MILITIA ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. MULOCK moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 7) to amend the Militia Act. He said: The object of the Bill is to make it lawful for officers of the Militia of Canada to be appointed to the position of Officer Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in Canada--in other words, to remove the disqualification imposed upon them in the present Act.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

REPEAL OF ELECTORAL FRANCHISE ACT.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 8) to repeal Chapter 5 of the