

on the revision day it is proved that the man should be on the list and his correct name can be given.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will allow me to consider that when we get through the Bill.

Mr. BURDETT. I think section 16 covers that.

On section 5,

Mr. COLTER. I mentioned last night that I thought it was proper that certain words should be added to this section, after the word "him," in the 46th line. I have submitted to the Minister of Justice an amendment, requiring the revising officer to notify the public that the lists are completed, subject to the correction of simply clerical errors, and that these clerical errors should be corrected in the presence of the parties, or of any who may choose to attend, publicly. I mentioned, at that time, a case in point. It would be very cheap, and very simple, to have this matter arranged, and I suggest that the Minister of Justice should take it into consideration.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. We will try and make provision for that, but I would rather reserve that until the close of our work on the Bill, because it will be necessary to see how it fits into the main Act.

Mr. MULOCK. I intimated to the Minister yesterday that I had an amendment in the line suggested by my hon. friend (Mr. Colter), and I will send it to him.

Committee rose, and, it being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

ELECTORAL FRANCHISE ACT.

House again resolved itself into Committee on Bill (No. 4) further to amend the Revised Statutes, chapter 5, respecting the Electoral Franchise.

On sub-section 2 of section 5,

Mr. DAVIES. This is a new provision. After the lists are printed and before they are verified, should it not be the duty of the revising officer to compare them?

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Is this the final printing of the list?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Yes.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Suppose errors are made in the printing of the lists, is there any provision in the Act by which mistakes that might occur in that way can be rectified—either by the omission of names from the list, or mistakes of the printer?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. There is something in that; but it was understood that before the Bill was finally passed we would try to make some provision for the correction of clerical errors.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). As I understand, the list, when printed, is the list that will be handed to the deputy returning officers?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Yes.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The point I want to make is, that there should be a verification of the list after it finally leaves the printer's hands, so that if there were any mistake made, as it often happens that some names are dropped out, they could be reinserted.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. This provides that after they are printed, they should be verified by the revising officer, and transmitted to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). That is the verification before the printing. What I allude to, is the verification after the list is printed.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. There is no provision for that. We agreed to reserve the question of verification of clerical errors, and I will consider that at the same time. I think it would be desirable.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) How is the revising officer to verify these lists? The Queen's Printer has to print them as he receives them from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and how are they to be verified?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. There is no method prescribed here for verifying after transmission from the Clerk of the Crown, but we are going to provide for verification.

On section 6,

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I propose to drop that section. It was a proposal to reduce the number of electors in a polling sub-division to 250 instead of 300. That was asked for in the Printing Bureau, for some reasons connected with the number of names that it would be convenient to have on a sheet, but I think it would involve too much trouble in redistributing the polling districts.

On section 9,

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I desire to refer to section 10 of the Act we are amending, which contains a special provision with respect to Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. Instead of 30th July, 1885, being the date up to which persons who had a right to vote, under the Island franchise, should continue to have the right to be placed on the list, it should be extended to the 1st of June in each year. The Act as it now stands provides that persons in the Island who are British subjects, and of full age and entitled to vote under the Island franchise, shall be entitled to be placed on the list, provided they were so entitled on 20th July, 1885. That was all right when the Act was passed. The intention was to give whoever was entitled to vote under the Island franchise, a right to be placed on the list as it was revised year by year.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I understand a serious difficulty has arisen, which has frustrated the intention of Parliament, as regards the operation of this section in Prince Edward Island. I understand the revising barrister ruled that those persons only are entitled to go on the list who, on 20th July, 1885, were qualified to vote; and I understand the fact to be, that in the Island very few persons were qualified to vote, because the law of the Province required that they should not only be persons assessed for poll tax, but persons who had paid poll tax, and the date fixed for the payment of poll tax was so early in the year, that it was not collected to any extent;—in fact, it had been levied, but not collected. What I was going to suggest was, that this section should include any person in the Province of Prince Edward Island who was a British subject, and was on 20th July, 1885, liable to be assessed for the payment of such poll tax, and so on.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The Act is all right as it stands now to enable those qualified to vote under the Island law on a particular day, namely, 20th July, 1885. There is nothing wrong in the Act, because it confers upon every person who was entitled to vote under the Island law on 20th July, 1885, a right to have his name put on the electoral list. The only object is to extend that date, and I suggest 1st June in each year, as it is the date when the preliminary list is first made up. If the amendment were carried, the result would be this, that whenever a revision takes place in each year every person entitled to vote under the Island franchise would be entitled to be placed on the electoral list.