

only instead of using red ink they used black ink. That had to be done by the returning officer.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—When?

Hon. Mr. WATSON—At the last election.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—By whom?

Hon. Mr. WATSON—By the returning officer. As soon as he is appointed he has to make up a certified list to be used at the polls.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—The thin red line was made on the eve of the election.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—It is always done on the eve of an election; the returning officer is not a standing officer or one who is appointed for months or years.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—He has no standing?

Hon. Mr. WATSON—None except as a returning officer.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—What notice was given the voters whose names were struck off one list and who were supposed to be allowed to vote in another constituency?

Hon. Mr. WATSON—There was no more notice than the fact that every elector knows where he should vote, and if an elector knew he had to vote in a certain polling division—

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—He knew that, and when he came to vote he found a red line drawn through his name.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Not at all. The hon. gentleman has been reading Tory campaign literature again. I venture to say that in the whole province of Manitoba where probably seven or eight thousand names were erased from the list, though very few persons were disfranchised, and if you take the number disfranchised and inquire into each case you will probably find that there were as many of one political complexion as of the other. There was but one way to make the list, and that plan was adopted in the local as well as in the Dominion elections.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Was not that work done under the direction of Mr. Leitch, the party organizer of the Liberal party in Manitoba?

Hon. Mr. WATSON—It was done by the returning officer.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON. Under the direction of Mr. Leitch—is not that correct?

Hon. Mr. WATSON—No, I do not know that it is correct. I do not think it is correct. The returning officer could not possibly do it all himself, because the hon. gentleman quite appreciates that one must have a personal knowledge of the elector to know whether he voted in one constituency or the other. Another objection we have to the form of the lists there is this: in a great many instances the post office address of the elector is given, but not the location of his residence, and it was necessary in each case to find the location because every elector must vote in the district where he lives under the one man one vote system. I could produce lists made by the returning officers in the local election where one-third of the names were struck out in black ink. No doubt mistakes occur sometimes for the reason that it would be impossible for the returning officer in all cases to know whether a man lives on one side of the line or the other where only his post office address was given.

The SPEAKER—I would draw the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that he is wandering away from the Bill which is before the House.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—The gentleman who preceded me took exactly the same line. Moreover, this is an election Bill affecting the province of Manitoba, and I am giving some reasons why legislation should be passed here to ensure the rights of the electors in Manitoba in elections. The hon. leader of the opposition did not confine himself to the Bill before us. He took up the Bill as it was introduced in the House of Commons, and pointed out that it was a most iniquitous measure—I think he said colossal impertinence—on the part of the government to interfere with the making up of the lists in Manitoba. The Election Act as originally introduced in Manitoba by the Conservative government, provided for the judge preparing the lists. They appointed the registration clerks, but the government saw fit to take that right away