

One thing, however, he has not undertaken to do—knowing, perhaps, the impossibility of it—and that is to explain the apparently unworkable nature of some of the chief sections of the Franchise Amendment Act. It has some way leaked out that at the meeting here last month of the county judges and revising officers, they were very far from being unanimously of opinion as to how the provisions of this Act are to be worked out, and as far as we can gather each was left to decide upon his own course of action. We cannot learn, so far as our inquiries go, that any of the county judges saw the Act in question before it was passed, and one of them told us that he never had received any Bills introduced into the Commons, and he believed his brother judges were in the same position.

Now as many Acts are there passed affecting the duties of our County Court judges, would it not be prudent to give those who have the carrying out of them an opportunity to supervise them before they become law? They, of all men, ought to be able to anticipate any difficulties likely to arise in the working of them. We believe that a copy of every bill introduced in the Ontario Legislature is sent at once to the county judges, and we have no doubt that they are sometimes able to point out improvements that might be made.

We understand that one of the many difficulties that arise under the Act we speak of, is as to how, when a new subdivision is to be formed, the list of names therefor—as taken from other subdivisions—is to be prepared; whether to be written out by the revising officer, or to be sent to Ottawa to be printed. From a circular issued by the Queen's printer, and which has appeared in some of the newspapers, we see it is suggested that these names be inserted in every supplementary list of names to be added, the fact being overlooked that the Act directs that that list is to contain the names of those persons *not already* on the original list. A still greater difficulty appears to arise under the new section 21, which directs the revising officer, after the final "revision," to correct the original list, by inserting in their proper places the names of the persons in the supplementary list of names added. This it is impossible to carry out literally, as there are no spaces left in the original list for that purpose; and if the revising officer has to make out a fresh list of all names, in alphabetical order, we pity him, when the amount of the remuneration he is to receive for all his work is considered.

A cursory examination of the Franchise Act leads us to the belief that the cost of printing in connection with these lists is likely to make a serious demand upon the finances of the country, and we cannot help contrasting it with the simplicity and inexpensive character of the Ontario Voters Lists Act.