

a provision. Of course such a question does not make much difference to people in cities, towns or villages, but it will make a great difference to people who have to travel seven or eight miles, when they find the polling division is divided and that the polling places are not more convenient places than before it was divided. It is an utter impossibility to have this Act properly carried out unless means are taken to satisfy the people who have every reason to complain in this respect.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Carried.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What does the hon. gentleman propose to carry, the section to which he proposes to make an amendment?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I want to carry subsection "b" of section 5.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Incomplete.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The amendment will come in after section 5.

Mr. FOSTER. The amendment is not to be an amendment of subsection "b."

Mr. McINERNEY. Would not the amendment completely contradict this subsection "b"?

Mr. MONK. Would the hon. gentleman please read that amendment once more?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I tried to be civil once, and it cost me so much time that I think I won't try it again. The best thing I can do is to read that section when I intend to move it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does not my hon. friend think it is just as well to let this clause stand? I do not think we can make any progress until we have that amendment. It appears to me a very irrational mode to pass a clause that requires to be amended, and then deal with the amendment afterwards.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not intend to amend section "b" at all. I intend to introduce a clause which will have for its effect, to remedy the difficulty pointed out by the hon. member for Kent in so far as certain polling subdivisions in New Brunswick are concerned, an additional section. We have discussed this amendment over and over again to-night, when it was simply put by me before the House for the information of the committee so they might know what would be done when we reached section 6.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understood the leader of the House to say a little while ago that in addition to the amendment which the hon. gentleman has suggested, there would be due notice that these things would not be sprung in a night upon the electors who would be in the morning unable to find where they would have to go to vote.

The PRIME MINISTER. I understand all this is provided for by my hon. friend's amendment. The hon. gentleman knows that under the law the returning officer is bound, before the election, to give notice to the public of the polling day. He issues his proclamation that there will be a nomination at such a place, and polling at various places mentioned. He has to give the notice, therefore all this is provided for already, but it will be supplemented by the amendment of my hon. friend. I have no objection at all to reserving one of these subsections upon which we can discuss the amendment when it is introduced.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It is for that reason that subsection "a" has been reserved, we reserved it because the Solicitor General informed us that he had an amendment that would affect it. We are now discussing section "b," and the Solicitor General informs us he has an important amendment that will bear upon that section. Why should we pass section "b" any more than section "a" until we get that amendment before us? My hon. friend the right hon. gentleman says the amendment will be there, but it is not there now. If my right hon. friend will read the amendment of the Solicitor General, who I am sorry to see, has had his temper a little ruffled—though I am not very much surprised at that—if he would read that amendment he will find that what he has assured this committee was there, is not there at all.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is a question which we will determine when we discuss the amendment. At present it is quite sufficient to reserve section "b," which the Solicitor General does not propose to alter. If we reserve section "b" as a peg on which to hang the amendment, we have carried everything that ought to be necessary for the proper understanding of this section.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the suggestion of my right hon. friend at first is the one that had better be carried out now. Let this whole section 5 stand until we have the amendment.

The PRIME MINISTER. After having lost the whole of this sitting.

Mr. FOSTER. The amendment which is proposed, together with the addition that my right hon. friend has promised, and with what might be contributed by some hon. gentlemen on this side, once the amendment is printed and is before us, so that we can see how far it does go, generically affects this whole clause. How can you go to work and pass one subsection and another subsection which are to be affected by an amendment which is not yet before us? The Solicitor General did not do himself justice when an hon. gentleman having asked him courteously to read that the second time, he remarked that he had been civil once and he would not read it again.