

Government are to blame exactly in this respect. They could not have foreseen the growing up of a town of that size. I think that, in fairness, this Parliament should pass a law allowing new voters' lists to be made for a place like Rossland, in order that the people there should have a fair chance of recording their votes, because of the very special circumstances of the case. Here is a town that was not heard of, that practically was not in existence when the revising officer made his last list, and which now has a population of about 3,000, and which next summer, if the anticipations of my hon. friend's constituents are at all carried out, will have a much greater population even than now. Would it not be eminently fair that in a case of that kind the House should pass a short statute, under which the judge might hold a special meeting at Rossland and other towns that have grown so rapidly by reason of the mining excitement arising out of the discovery of gold and the development of silver mining. Some means ought to be provided by which these people would have an opportunity to vote. I do not put this forward for party reasons. I have no means of knowing whether the people of Rossland are favourable or unfavourable to the Government of the day. But I say, as a matter of fairness and as a matter of recognition of the great importance that the mineral districts of Kootenay is likely to be not only to British Columbia, but to the people of Canada at large, it would be an eminently fitting thing for Parliament to draw special attention to the great increase in population by doing something of this kind. It would be fair to the people there, and it would be advantageous to Canada at large, as I say, to draw attention in this very marked manner to the fact that though the voters' list was made in 1894, and is accepted for the rest of Canada as being a fairly recent list, the enormous increase in the population in this district had made it necessary to have a special list in order that the people there should have a chance of depositing their ballots in the coming elections.

Mr. MARA. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Martin) is quite right when he speaks of the district of Yale-Cariboo as a large one. But he has very much narrowed the bounds of the district. It extends from the summit of the Rocky Mountains to Harrison River or Agassiz, a distance of between 400 and 500 miles along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and from the settlements on the southern part of Kootenay Lake to Barkerville, a distance, by the ordinary lines of travel, of nearly 800 miles. There are some sixty odd polling divisions in the district, with a voters' list of 7,743. Mr. Justice Walkem, who was the revising officer, took great pains to get every possible name placed on the list. Being a judge of the supreme court, and having to travel on circuit, he was enabled, during the time the

list was being revised, to visit nearly every polling division in the county. Therefore, he had excellent opportunities of placing every name that was given to him. That he did his work well and faithfully every resident of the district will cheerfully testify to. The hon. member for Winnipeg, I think, is wrong in one contention, and that is that the polling-place cannot be held at Rossland, the town of which he speaks, and which has grown up in eighteen months from a little hamlet of about twenty people to a busy town of about 3,000. The name Waneta is given to the polling district, and it is quite possible for the returning officer to have the poll held at any place within the district, and it will probably be held at Rossland.

Mr. MARTIN. But that will be unfair to the people of Waneta, will it not? There are not so many of them, of course.

Mr. MARA. There are only three voters living at Waneta, who are on the voters' list. Waneta is the name given to the whole district, including the town of Waneta, and in this district are the town of Trail and the town of Rossland. The difficulty the hon. gentleman refers to can largely be overcome if the Government will bring in a short Bill enabling any voter who is registered within the district to vote at the polling-place where he happens to be when the election is held. I have already called the attention of the Government to that fact, and they have the matter under consideration, and I hope they will see their way clear to make an exception of the case of the town of Rossland.

Mr. MARTIN. May I ask the hon. gentleman if I understand rightly that he proposes that a person who has now the right to vote in some other constituency should have the right to vote at Rossland, or does he simply confine it to those having the right to vote in Yale and Kootenay districts.

Mr. MARA. I would confine it to Yale, Cariboo and Kootenay. The population of Rossland is made up chiefly of Americans—I suppose that two-thirds would be a low estimate of the proportion of American citizens in the population. The others, who are British subjects and who would be entitled to vote by length of residence in the province are registered voters in other parts of Yale and Kootenay or Cariboo. So that if the Government will do what I have suggested there will be no serious grievance and the number of voters who will be disfranchised will be very trifling. That Mr. Justice Walkem did his work well, that a great many names of voters were placed upon the list, is evidenced by the fact that the provincial voters' list, made up only twelve months before for the same district, contained 3,645 names, while the Dominion list contains 7,743 names. That is pretty good evidence that the revising officer did his work well, and that