

Mr. CASEY. I understood the Minister to propose to insert words giving "proper delay and reasonable time for correcting errors." It seems to me that that almost amounts to a reopening of the revision. I do not think that is what my hon. friends were asking for. What they wanted was to make sure that the list which came from the printing office should be the same as that which the revising officer sent. The Minister says that as soon as the revising officer has signed this list and sent it down, his duties are performed. In a sense they are; but I do not think they are fully performed until he has ascertained and certified that the copy which leaves the printing office is identical with the copy he sent down. A slight mistake in the spelling of a name, or in the number of a lot, might throw a man out of his vote, a mistake purely unintentional. I think it is the duty of the revising officer to read the proof carefully and revise it along with his original copy, and finally to certify on one or more copies of the list as finally printed, to certify that they are in accordance with the list that he made up.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Of course, every effort must be made to prevent the mistakes which are possible in printing great numbers of names, and every effort will be made, by the transmission of proofs to the revising officer and by plans of that kind. The principle of the Bill is that the list, when finally revised and transmitted to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, is the authentic list of voters in that electoral district. The list, after being finally revised, corrected and certified, is to be transmitted to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, who shall insert a notice in the *Gazette*, and on and after the publication of that notice the persons whose names are entered on that list as voters, subject only to correction or appeal, shall be held to be duly registered voters in and for that electoral district; so that the list which is finally revised and certified to the printer, is the authentic list.

Mr. CASEY. I speak of mistakes arising in the printing office.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I propose that the revising officer shall correct them before the list is printed; and if any mistakes have occurred in printing after that, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall correct them. That is all plain when we keep in mind the fact that the roll sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, which is the manuscript to be printed from, is the authentic list.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I think it should be the duty of the revising officer to verify the printed list, the list which the printer prints from the certified list; and I would suggest that the word "before" should be inserted instead of the word "after," so that it shall be read that "after verification" by the revising officer, he shall transmit the list to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. Then the revising officer would have to verify the correctness of the printed list by comparing it with the certified list. I think that sub-section 6 had this very thing in view. Even as it is, it will be the duty of the revising officer to verify the printed list by comparing it with the certified list after it is printed.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The object of that sub-section 6 is to correct the printed list which is sent to him for distribution. But what I want to avoid is that the revising officer should have any power after the list has been certified and transmitted to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and after it has become authenticated as the voters' list of the electoral district, I want to prevent any further revision.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) What we want to get it at, so far as I can understand members on both sides of the House, is that the printed list shall be a correct transcript of the certified list. The draughtsman of the Bill must have had that object in view, when he put in these words: "Shall

cause them to be printed, and, after verification by the revising officer, shall transmit a sufficient number of each to the revising officers and to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery;" the object therefore being, that the printed list shall be a correct copy of the certified list. My impression is that, as it stands now, he will have to compare the printed list with a certified copy, to verify its correctness.

Mr. PLATT. Why should the revising officer's duties end before the lists are printed? Why should he certify the lists until he has read the proof, and seen that the printed lists are correct? We contend that it should be placed under the revising officer's eye, until it is handed in to the returning officer at the election. I can see no reason why this list should not be sent to the printer before it is certified by the revising officer.

Mr. CHARLTON. We can hardly say the printing is done before the proofs are corrected. The printing is not complete until the proofs are correct. It strikes me that the proper person to correct the proofs is the revising barrister who made the list. I do not see how we can ensure a correct list unless we have a revised list, and revised by the officer who makes the list. In listening to this discussion I am struck with the truth of the old adage:

"What a tangled web we weave,
When once we practice to deceive."

At this moment I call to mind an anecdote told the other night by the right hon. gentleman about the Jew and pork, about the clap of thunder that saluted him as he came out of the restaurant where he had been partaking of the forbidden meat, and his exclamation: "Good heavens, what a fuss about a little pork!" On this question we may say what a fuss we have about this absurd Bill, and how long it is drawn out. I sympathise with the Minister of Justice in his attempt to make workable an unworkable scheme, and in so far as printing the lists at Ottawa for the whole Dominion is concerned, I think it is impossible to do the work correctly and satisfactory, and that the attempt is a total mistake. The entire Bill is clumsy, ridiculous and absurd, and we should drop the whole matter and go back to provincial lists, which will cost us nothing instead of a great deal of money, the expenditure of which will be involved in working this Bill. There is too much cost altogether for the amount of pork.

Mr. COLTER. I wish to submit this point to the Committee. Supposing an election is coming on and these lists are sent out to the deputy returning officers and they prove to be different from the certified lists, how is that difficulty to be remedied? Supposing the printed list sent out by the Government Printing Bureau differ materially from the certified list, and supposing some names are omitted, how are those names to be placed on these copies?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I do not think there is any practical difficulty, for this reason: that the list is to be made in triplicate, one copy of which is to be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. It is to be printed, and after being printed, it is to be distributed all over the riding, and everybody preparing for the election will know exactly what it is to be. If there are any mistakes, we may rest assured they will be discovered and rectified.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). When the mistake is discovered, how will it be rectified?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The lists distributed are not the authentic list. They are nothing unless they are certified copies of the list held by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and he is to issue the copies, and is responsible for seeing that they are true copies; and if they are not true copies, he is to make them true copies.

Mr. CASEY. It is all very well to say that, in theory, no mistake can occur because the original list will be in the