

remembered that these men vote on certificates and as a rule do not vote in their own polling subdivisions. It gives less difficulty in tracing out certificates if we limit the number. If any practical good were to be accomplished by increasing the number I would not have any serious objection, but I do not see any advantage in doing so.

Mr. GAUVREAU: We have lots of trouble with two.

Mr. ROSS: I think this clause should stand, because when you get through with the Bill you may not have any registrars.

Mr. GUTHRIE: If we do not we will revise the whole thing.

Mr. DENIS: Under the old Act the returning officer alone could grant these certificates. Now the returning officer, together with the registrar, can grant certificates. Consequently, each man who is entitled to a certificate may make his application either to the returning officer or to the registrar. Moreover, it is provided that two certificates will be given in each poll. Supposing that the registrar gives two certificates and the returning officer gives two; that will be four. There is no provision in the law to prevent the returning officer and the registrar from acting separately. It says nowhere that when the registrar gives two certificates he will have to make a report to the returning officer, and vice versa. With these two officers acting independently and each granting two certificates it will make four certificates for a polling subdivision. I think these certificates should be controlled absolutely during and after the election and that all parties interested should be able to control the number of certificates given, to whom they are given and by whom they are given. As the matter now stands there is no provision for the form or shape in which the certificate shall be given. I submit that the certificates should be controlled, and in order that they may be controlled I would add to the Act a form which would come immediately after Form T, and which would be Form T-1, giving the exact wording of the certificate to be issued, which form does not exist at the present time. Then I would have these certificates numbered with a stub. The stub also would be numbered the same as the ballots in order to keep track of them. In the third instance, as with the ballots, I would have the certificates bound or stitched in books containing twenty-five, fifty or one hundred. In the fourth instance the returning officer and the

registrar should be provided with these certificates by the chief electoral officer just as other papers are to be furnished by him. Then I would have appear on the stub the name of the elector, the poll where he is entitled to vote, the poll where he is allowed to vote according to the certificate and the capacity in which he is allowed to vote at the poll—either as deputy returning officer, agent, clerk or otherwise. Then I would have these stubs open to the examination of the candidates before and until three days after the election; and finally I would have these stubs, with the other papers, returned to the chief electoral officer. To summarize I would take complete control of these certificates. I do not see what objection there can be to the proposition. If there are any I am ready to hear them.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I have never heard of any difficulty arising under the plan set out in the Act. It is certainly less involved than the one proposed by my hon. friend although the latter may be very good. I have never heard of any irregularity or difficulty taking place in regard to these certificates but other hon. gentlemen may have.

Mr. BEST: I submit that what my hon. friend (Mr. Denis) proposes would be utterly impossible. How could a returning officer get around to every polling sub-division in the county say in half a day, with all these certificates.

Mr. DENIS: I do not think my hon. friend is seized of the point. The returning officer is in possession of the certificates. He is the official who gives the certificates just like a man who has a book of cheques and issues cheques and keeps the stubs.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Not under this.

Mr. DENIS: Yes.

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, it is the revising officer who would be the judge in the city districts and the registrar in the country districts.

Mr. DENIS: Well that is a slip, I meant the revising officer or the registrar.

Mr. BEST: If the hon. gentleman meant the revising officer even in case it would be impossible for him to get around in the limited time afforded.

Mr. DENIS: The revising officer has the control of these certificates. What difference does it make to require him to have stubs and to keep the names of all the persons he issued these certificates to, and