

cery's care. I do not say it was anything but by accident, but it creates some degree of unrest in the public mind. An election was being contested, and it was found that the ballots had been destroyed. In view of that, the opposition can see nothing but some possible disadvantage for them in this clause.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I can understand how my hon. friends, who are not familiar with the practice, can conjure up difficulties. Neither side will get copies.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Oh, yes, the government candidate will.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman can put Dr. Dawson on his oath and let him say whether copies have been sent to the government candidates.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The government candidate may by some means get a copy of the list earlier than the opposition candidate, and have it printed.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—To meet the hon. gentleman's view would involve a delay of ten days and, now that the elections are to be held on the same day, that would make a great difference. Neither candidate has an advantage over the other. Both are on an equal plane. It is provided that this official list is to be sent forthwith to Ottawa to be printed and when it is printed, copies are to be sent to all parties interested at once. If you are going to wait to have it copied after it is revised, it will involve delay. In many cases, it has been impossible to print or even make copies of the list in the elections held in the Northwest, before the recent changes. They are now, I understand, preparing a list, and I could see that it gives rise to very serious fraud where the list was prepared immediately after the enumerators had done their work and before anybody had an opportunity of examining it before it is printed. Whereas, in the course now intended, it is certified by the officials, by the King's printer, and the candidates get a copy just as soon as it can be of any value to them. The objection I see to it is the delay that may arise. You cannot name the nomination day until the lists are ready.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—There are no lists for the Northwest until the writ is issued, and about four weeks time is given to appoint the enumerators and organize, and consequently only about two weeks are permitted for the preparation of lists, and copies are invariably furnished by the enumerators, but where we have a provision under clause 9 that the lists shall be prepared between the first day of August and the fifteenth of October in each year—the whole of August, September, and the whole of October—and yet in the Northwest to which my hon. friend alludes as an illustration of the impossibility of doing this, the whole thing is done after the returning officer organizes his district. Where a month and a half is given for the preparation and revision of the list, and that time can be changed to any other month of the year, it is idle to say that lists cannot be furnished.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—The hon. gentleman is aware that he cannot compare the lists in the unorganized districts with the lists of the Northwest Territories. In the unorganized districts, any elector whose name does not appear on the lists, and who is qualified and prepared to take the oath can go and vote. The list is got up for convenience, but it does not necessarily follow that only those whose names appear on the list have a right to vote.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Is there anything to preclude this machinery from being set in motion sufficiently early before an election to permit of those lists being furnished? Every hon. gentleman must freely admit that the first essential to a candidate in conducting an election is to have the list, and to say that you wish to send that candidate through the barren wilderness of an unorganized territory without a list, is to impose upon him hardships of a serious character. There is no question the government candidate, whether Conservative or Liberal, will be furnished with the list and the opposition candidate will not.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—If there is any suspicion that this is being done for a purpose, I should not for a moment consent to its being struck out. I cannot myself conjure