

in accordance with the law of the province. Will my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) deny it? Put your rush list on after the writs issue and show me how it can possibly be done in the unorganized districts of the province of Ontario according to the law of that province? Show me how it can possibly be done according to the laws of Manitoba in Manitoba; show me how it can possibly be done according to the law of British Columbia in British Columbia.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) allow me a question? How could we do it in sixteen days, as provided in the order issued in the 'Gazette' in Manitoba at the present time?

Mr. FOSTER. In Manitoba the proclamation is issued on the first of May and the revision is to be completed by the first of July—two months for the operation and in the best season of the year. And the time given for registration under present conditions is ample and the notice that is given for registration is from ten days up to thirty days.

Mr. CRAWFORD. If the hon. gentleman will allow me—

Mr. FOSTER. I cannot afford—

Mr. CRAWFORD. The rest of us have to wait for you sometimes.

Mr. FOSTER. Oh, very well.

Mr. CRAWFORD. In the Beautiful Plains electoral division only sixteen days is allowed from the time the registration begins until the operation is finished.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE. And how many days' notice prior to registration? At least ten days.

Mr. FOSTER. How much notice was given in Beautiful Plains?

Mr. CRAWFORD. I am speaking of the time allowed in which to do the work.

Mr. FOSTER. How much notice was given. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Crawford) may answer—

Mr. CRAWFORD. I have not the 'Gazette' before me.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman does not wish to answer. That is the kind of information my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is going upon—information given by a man, who, when he is asked a direct question, dare not answer it.

Mr. GALLIHER. Can you put on voters during the time of notice that is given? You cannot.

Mr. FOSTER. You have to register within the sixteen days and then comes the revision and these are two different operations.

Mr. CRAWFORD. But the time for registration and revision has been fixed at sixteen days.

Mr. FOSTER. Suppose I admit that in the case of Beautiful Plains. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Crawford) be honest—thoroughly honest—and say in how many cases that takes place out of the forty-one divisions?

Mr. CRAWFORD. In Gladstone, the adjoining constituency, it is seventeen days.

Mr. FOSTER. That is another one; go on. The hon. gentleman does not go on. We have an old saying that one swallow does not make a summer. If you were to take off the statute-book every law that worked a hardship in some special case, how much legislation would you have left? Why, it is simply absurd. The law is not to be condemned unless you can show a general tendency to limit unduly the time allowed.

Now, I come to my next point. And you can illustrate it in the light of the cases where this government has acted under the power given them in the Act of 1898. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Aylesworth) made the statement—made it once, made it twice, made it three times—that for remedying the overlapping of polling divisions in Manitoba there was no provision made in the Election Act. Had he read the Election Act he would have known that sections 24 and 25 give clear direction and absolute power with reference to remedying the overlapping of intersecting polling divisions. And my hon. friends opposite have been acting on that very section of the law in three cases that I will name: in the Brandon by-election of 1901, in the West Algonia and other elections in unorganized territory of 1904, and in the thin red line episode of Manitoba in 1904. Judge what they will do under this clause by what they have done under a clause which gave them even less power than this gives. Take the agent that you selected—I speak of the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), the Minister of Justice (Mr. Aylesworth) and the Secretary of State, men still in the cabinet and whose business it will be to carry out the provisions of this Bill—what did they do? and what did their officer do, to whom three telegrams were sent embodying all the instructions he ever got? That returning officer, on his oath, declared that he had not paid any attention to the law of Ontario at all. Why? Because it would have been impossible for him to pay attention to that law and get his work done in the time given him to do it. Does my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) deny that? But take the election of 1901, a by-election in which Hon. Clifford Sifton was a candidate. In that year, let me tell my right hon. friend they had a registration board in the province of Manitoba, and it was a board of judges. Did he follow out the law of Manitoba? Did his Secretary of State and his Minister of Justice follow out the law? They actually passed by the re-