

Mr. DOHERTY: The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery performs all his ordinary functions; but it is not part of the duty of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to first determine who is elected for a particular constituency. Under the machinery as it exists at present, the returning officer of that constituency makes return that So-and-So is elected. That is now rendered impossible by the fact that the returning officer of that particular constituency has not the necessary information to determine who is returned. The only way that that information could be got to him would be by making the people on the other side in some way transmit all information with regard to each particular constituency to these 230 or 240 officers scattered all over the Dominion, and it would necessitate sending information to those officers for the mere purpose of having them send it back again. It seemed a more reasonable and practical method to provide some one to whom all of the results of these elections held in this way in different sections should be transmitted, and who should establish and announce the final result.

• Sir SAM HUGHES: Will it be made legal to transmit it by cable in case the document is lost in transmission?

Mr. DOHERTY: The provision is that as soon as the information is obtained, that is, as soon as the result is ascertained, the High Commissioner and the commissioner in Paris shall transmit the information by cable. Then there is provision that he shall follow that by written communication which is to be registered, and so forth, and the intention is that before officially declaring the result the written communication should be awaited, but in the meantime the information would be here, and if any accident should happen as to subsequent transmission, no doubt it would be available as a method of establishing the fact.

Mr. MARCIL: Do the ballots overseas contain the names of the candidates or only of the political parties?

Mr. DOHERTY: It is not intended that the ballots overseas should contain the names of the candidates; the ballot as provided by the present Soldiers' Voting Act is retained. That is to say, a ballot upon which a man may vote for the Government or for the Opposition or for an independent candidate, if there be any, or may vote for a particular person, so that wherever the elector knows who the candidates in his constituency are he has an opportunity

to vote for the particular candidate, and incidentally to that, I may say we have made very full provision for creating a condition wherein, so far as it is possible, opportunity will be afforded to the overseas soldiers to know who the candidates are. There is difficulty, apart from the knowledge of who the candidates are, in the way of providing just such a ballot as is had upon this side; that is, that, if you sought to do that, you would have to have printed upon the other side of the Atlantic, necessarily after the nomination and before the voting, ballots for each particular constituency, containing, of course, different names—ballots such as we have on this side of the Atlantic. By retaining the form of ballot provided for in the Soldiers' Voting Act, we enable preparation to be made upon the other side of the ocean of all ballots that are needed, because all of the ballots to be used, without regard to the constituency, will be in the same form. You get that advantage in preparation. Then you avoid what would be an obvious impossibility, you avoid the necessity of every presiding officer being provided with specific ballots for each constituency in the Dominion.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: What is the difficulty about doing that, by making the interval between nomination and election day two or three weeks longer?

Mr. DOHERTY: We propose to prolong the delay between nomination day and voting day, and we have made provision for communicating and disseminating the knowledge as to who the candidates are in each constituency by every possible method, and we do hope that the soldiers as a whole will know who the candidates are. But there is the other difficulty, that if you were to hand to the soldier a ballot for his constituency such as we have over here, then every officer—and, of course, the officer cannot take the votes by constituencies, but is taking the vote of a group of soldiers—every officer taking the vote would have to have with him ballots for each of the 230 constituencies in Canada. While that might be an extreme case, undoubtedly there would be in every group of soldiers men voting as for different constituencies.

It is to be borne in mind that this operation is to be carried on practically in the field and if you load up the people who are going to take the votes with an assortment of ballots for each of the 234 constituencies, you will have to send a man