

the conclusion of the whole election by reason of dilatory legal proceedings.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I imagine my hon. friend has a wider experience as to the effect of such provisions than any other member of this House, and naturally any suggestion that comes from him based upon his long experience are entitled to very careful consideration. I understand him to state as a result of that experience that the system of judicial revision having been tried, and the system without such judicial revision having been also tried for a number of years, it was found that the latter system was on the whole the more satisfactory of the two.

Mr. OLIVER: The lesser of two evils.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: And that for the reason which he states very forcibly, namely, that the uncertainty, the delay and inconvenience attending a judicial revision rather outweigh any danger which might result from the lack of such judicial revision. I shall take his view into very careful consideration, as there is a great deal of force in what he suggests, and his suggestion is based upon a very long experience of both systems. Perhaps the matter might be allowed to stand over for the present, and I will confer with the Secretary of State in regard to it.

Mr. OLIVER: I only wished to inform the committee as to the actual facts of the case, and I was led to do so by what I heard the leader of the Opposition say. I am not sufficiently familiar with the Act to know whether I took the right point or not, but I thought that where provincial lists are adopted, and insofar as they are adopted, it would not be an improvement at any rate to provide for any tying of ballots on account of challenge of those votes which were on a fixed list.

Mr. MEIGHEN: In so far as the lists are adopted, there is no tying of ballots at all. It is in so far as the lists are changed that there is a tying of ballots.

Mr. OLIVER: But not the fixed lists?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No.

Mr. GRAHAM: I want to make sure that I understand this Bill correctly as it applies to the older provinces, particularly Ontario. The list which will be adopted in the province of Ontario, subject to change by reason of this Act, will be that list which was finally revised in the autumn of 1916. The method of that revision is well known. The list is prepared from the assessment

[Mr. Oliver.]

roll, and finally revised on appeal by the county judge, except in cities, where they have registration. Do I understand that that is to be the basis of the list in Ontario, subject to the changes made by the enumerator owing to the provisions of this Act? Voters who are disfranchised under this Act will have their names removed from that list.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: There will be changes resulting from both enfranchisement and disqualification.

Mr. GRAHAM: And the enumerator will have to add to the list the new voters who are enfranchised by this Act? As I understand the proposition of the Government, so far as the list of 1916 as finally revised in Ontario is concerned, there will be no rejection of ballots, except by the ordinary form of challenge. Under ordinary conditions the scrutineer challenges a vote for any cause. If the voter takes the oath prescribed by law the vote is counted. Under the present law that vote will still be counted. So far as new votes are concerned, which are to be added by the enumerator, if objection is taken to any vote it is placed in a separate receptacle and not counted, except under proceedings which may become necessary on account of the closeness of the vote. I imagine that what my hon. friend from Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) had in his mind was that the tied ballot would apply to the fixed list as well, but that is not the case. There is a good deal to be said, however, for his contention as to the merits of the two methods. Whether more will be gained or lost by placing those challenged ballots in a separate receptacle, is a question for the committee and the Government to consider very seriously.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: There are advantages and disadvantages in both methods.

Mr. GRAHAM: There is another point in connection with clause 48. As I understand it, the voters' list as finally prepared by the enumerators will not be posted, in Ontario, until ten days before polling day. In the county of South Renfrew, for instance, ten days would not give the candidate an opportunity of any practical value of having in his possession a voters' list, which is a very necessary thing for a candidate to have. In a constituency that is over a hundred miles long, and where the electors, particularly in winter time, can only be reached by team, it would be impossible to make any use of the voters' list if it were not posted for a longer period