

Mr. FOSTER. Does not the clause in the general Bill cover the case? These poles are for carrying electricity.

Mr. LISTER. It covers the case of electric poles for lighting purposes, and to make the Act perfectly clear I propose to insert this section.

Mr. BERGERON. The objection I have is this. This Bill was before the Railway Committee and there thoroughly discussed, and now the House is asked to revise what was done by the Railway Committee and make an amendment without notice having been given of it. I do not want my hon. friend to imagine that I desire to prevent him putting the clause, but the reason a notice is required is that every hon. member should have an opportunity of seeing what the amendment is like. When anything is passed upon by the Railway Committee, it is a serious matter to change it.

Mr. LISTER. If the committee knew that we had not this power in the general Railway Act, they would have passed section 14, because there was no objection whatever to it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman states that there was no objection to this clause, but that it was merely stricken out in consequence of the belief that the power asked for is authorized by the general Railway Act. After careful examination, the hon. gentleman finds that, at all events, there is a doubt, and I may say that what he has stated is my recollection of what took place in the committee. I think, therefore, this is a case in which we need not insist on a notice.

Mr. LARIVIERE. The only objection is that you will thereby establish a precedent which may be a dangerous one.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It does not establish any precedent.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). No doubt my hon. friend has correctly stated the circumstances under which the section was stricken out. The chairman of the Railway Committee stated quite positively that it was not necessary to incorporate this 14th clause in the Bill, because it would be found in the general Act. I was aware myself that the Railway Act did provide for the use of electricity as a motive power in the propulsion of railway cars, and I thought, therefore, that the chairman might be correct in the statement he made. But in strictness I think that perhaps he was in error, and as there is a doubt, I hope there will be no objection to this amendment, any more than there usually is to our agreeing to a good many things which are clearly right and undisputed.

Mr. BERGERON. With these explanations, I withdraw my objection.

Bill reported, and read the third time and passed.

ELECTORAL FRANCHISE ACT.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 16) to repeal the Electoral Franchise Act, and to further amend the Dominion Elections Act.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Clause 5 will stand. Clause 6.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It was agreed that we should allow the clause we were discussing to stand.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Clause 5 is to stand.

Mr. McINERNEY. The whole clause, or only subsection "a."?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Why should we not take up subsection "b" of clause 5?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. And merely allow subsection "a" to stand over? Yes, I think that would answer the purpose.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Then, we go on with subsection "b."

(b) The polling divisions shall be those established or under the laws of that province for the purposes of provincial elections within the territory comprised in the electoral district for which such election is held.

Mr. McINERNEY. I wish to move an amendment to that clause, in line with the remarks that I made yesterday evening. The hon. Solicitor General will remember that I brought up a few cases in which it would be perfectly impossible to apply the Dominion Procedure Act in elections to the local districts. I named some cases in which in the local subdivisions for local elections there were from 800 to 1,000 names on the local list.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That would be in New Brunswick?

Mr. McINERNEY. Yes. It is very easy to poll these votes in the local elections, because the ballot is entirely different. In our local election, the canvassers have the ballots outside the polling booth, the names of the candidates being written or printed on the ballot. A man may leave home with the name of the candidate he wishes to vote for written on a ballot, and this he hands to the returning officer, and, if he has the right to vote, the ballot is put in the box. Our elections are held sometimes in the summer time, and very often an open window in some public building, a schoolhouse or something of that kind is taken; the ballot-box is in the window, and the returning officer sitting immediately behind it, with the representatives of the different candidates. The voter comes up to the window and gives his name; the returning officer takes the ballot and puts it in the box. And so it is easy to poll from 800 to 1,000 votes a day. The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr.