

cers who are guilty of special infractions of the law. This covers merely general misfeasance or omissions and the penalty seems sufficient.

On section 21,

Mr. INGRAM. This section is not clear enough. We want to prevent such things as took place in East Middlesex, where they ran short of ballots during the election day—as a matter of fact, they had to have the election on the following day. It may come in better on a later section of the Bill, but we should provide that such inspection should be allowed as will offer an opportunity to point out a possible shortage of ballots, so that a sufficient supply may be brought in.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We will consider that section when we come to it.

Mr. ALEX. MARTIN (P.E.I.) In portions of Canada where there are voters' lists, this portion of the section would apply, but special provision should be made for Prince Edward Island. I propose to amend this section by inserting after the words 'one copy of this Act,' 'and, in Prince Edward Island, one copy of the Franchise Act of 1898.' The reason for that is that the qualification of electors in Prince Edward Island is decided on polling day, and, to have the qualifications decided, you must have the Franchise Act in the hands of the returning officers. Then, in lines 43, 44 and 45, after 'such instructions by the Governor in Council as are required to carry out the election according to the provisions of this Act,' I propose to add 'such instructions in Prince Edward Island to contain such sections of the provincial law as relate to the qualification of voters and the oaths required to be taken by sections 65, 66 and 67 of this Act, having been made applicable to the elections being held.' Go on a little further to line 50:

A sufficient number of blank poll books and all the blank forms necessary for the purposes of such election.

Insert the following:

Such notice or advertisements regarding the qualification of voters as require to be posted under the provincial law.

If the hon. gentleman will turn to the local statutes of Prince Edward Island he will see there is an election poll notice required to be posted in the neighbourhood of the polling booth. I think this is very necessary, as the qualification is decided on election day. Turn to 56 Victoria, chapter 1, and you will see the qualification of every voter is to be posted up. The voter has the advantage of seeing that notice, and knows how his vote stands. In Prince Edward Island then, all elections will be carried on as in the local elections, the only difference being that one is a vote by ballot and the other an open vote. I know the Solicitor General

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

has amended the Bill in some respects to meet the case of Prince Edward Island, but this is an important omission. I beg leave to move the amendment.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. As the suggested amendments have reference to the Island of Prince Edward with the local laws, of which I am not familiar, I would invite my hon. friend to allow this clause to stand, and when the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is here, who is better acquainted with those laws than I am, we can discuss his amendments.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). In line 44 it says only one copy of this Act should be sent to a returning officer, and also that one copy shall be furnished for every polling subdivision. These copies that are given for the polling subdivisions are to be kept by the returning officer until the night before election. Therefore, there will only be one copy in the returning officer's hands that will be available. The election will probably follow in a few months after this law is passed, and the amendments will not be generally known, and it will be impossible to procure copies of this Act. That difficulty has arisen before, and I think it could be provided against in this section.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think there will be any difficulty about getting copies of the Act. I presume immediately the Act is passed it will be convenient to have it reprinted together with the Franchise Act for the purpose of distribution. I am sure there will be enough copies of the Act available to meet the difficulty suggested by the member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee).

On section 22,

Mr. BENNETT. I would like to ask the Solicitor General what is contemplated by this clause? In the preceding clause the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery at Ottawa supplies the printed lists, which are prepared at the Printing Bureau. Now, this clause refers to the procuring of such provincial voters' lists which, in the province of Ontario, would be from the clerks of the peace. Now, is there to be an option exercised by the department, that they might supply the returning officer for a riding with printed lists from here, or on the other hand, they might direct that he should obtain his lists from the county authorities?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The returning officer is obliged to obtain the list from the officials who are the legal custodians.

Mr. BENNETT. But in the preceding clause it is pointed out that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall transmit to the returning officer a sufficient number of voters' lists, those are the lists that are