in this way, as he had just said, deprive the government of the day as much as possible of all powers of interference.

It further provided that the writs of election should not be addressed to the parties whom the Government might name for the task, but to certain public officers such as sheriffs and registrars. Owing to their distance it would not do to put the elections in Manitoba and British Columbia under the same regulation, and the same applied to the elections in Algoma and Muskoka, in the Province of Ontario, and to Bonaventure, Chicoutimi and Gaspé, in the Province of Quebec. If it were found possible, he should be glad to see these come under the same rule.

There was one provision of the bill to which it might be advisable for him to refer, which was that in the event of the absence or sickness of the proper returning officer, the Lieutenant-Governor might, in certain cases, appoint an acting returning officer, in order to prevent returning of the writs to Ottawa and consequent delaying of the elections.

Another clause of the bill, and an important one, provided that when a returning officer had offended against the law and improperly used his powers, he should never again be permitted to act, but that it should devolve on the Government to appoint another in his stead. Then again, public nomination was not only a useless, but a dangerous formality, and it had been deemed advisable to do away with it. At these nominations not only were the electors accustomed to congregating, but strangers generally gathered and rioting and violence were too often the consequence—particularly in cities. Nomination day was perfectly useless, and in many countries had been abolished.

By the present bill, public nomination was abolished, the nomination being made in the following manner. The day for the nomination was fixed by the returning officer, who issued his proclamation, naming some particular public or private place for the reception of nominations. These nominations, which had to be handed to him, had to be signed by certain of electors, and had to give the name, description and qualification of the person proposed. The returning officer was to attend from twelve to two o'clock on the day of nomination, and in order that the nominations should not be shams he had to see that at least ten signatures were attached, attested to by one or more witnesses.

He enlarged upon the necessity of the latter part of this provision, inasmuch as he (Hon. Mr. Dorion) knew of a number of cases of returning officers who at election times had never been without a contest; indeed, they sometimes had procured candidates themselves. Then, it had to be stated whether or not the consent of the candidate had been obtained to his nomination. If only one candidate was proposed the returning officer made his return at once; but, if there were two or more, he would cause his proclamation to issue for the polling, in which he designated the candidates in their order on the ballot paper, their names being given alphabetically. This was to show the way in which the ballot paper should be prepared.

He had heard it said it was a pity to abolish nomination day, inasmuch as it would prevent candidates explaining their views upon the political questions of the day. He would say in reply that there was nothing to prevent the candidates from laying their opinions before the electors. They might have their ward, parish, and other meetings. In this way would be prevented violence, which past experience showed to have taken place.

The present bill did not provide for property qualification of a candidate, which had been the case with the law of Ontario since 1869. No men were prevented from candidature on the score of want of pecuniary qualification. There were numerous cases in which able men had been kept out on this account. He need only mention one case, that of the late member for Vancouver, Hon. Sir Francis Hincks, who had been kept out because it was pretended he had no qualification. Mr. Merritt's election also was within an ace of being thrown out because his qualification was not filed, he being in England at the time of his nomination. It was believed that this question of qualification might be left out without inconvenience, and it had been done.

There was no part of the question which caused so much difficulty as that of the franchise. There were objections to use of the machinery of the old Provinces, but it was deemed more satisfactory to use the franchise and voters lists of each Province on the ground of economy. It would be a saving to the country of from $50,000 to $60,000 a year. It seemed to him that the Legislatures of each Province were the best qualified to settle the franchise according to their own conditions, and were the best qualified to take measures to secure the best representatives. Besides, so many franchises would lead to confusion. Without a doubt this was a consideration which must commend itself to the House. There was another point—if the Dominion were obliged to provide its own voters lists, it would necessitate almost an army of officials, and create an immense amount of patronage whose objects would undoubtedly use their best endeavours to influence electors on behalf of the Government.

Another clause related solely to Prince Edward Island. In that Province there were the elective bodies, Legislative Council and House of Assembly, and it was necessary to choose between the two. It seemed the electorate for the local Assembly was almost universal, while the qualification of a voter for the Legislative Council was like that of Ontario and Quebec. On this account, until new lists were provided, it was deemed advisable to use the latter.

The last and perhaps the most important provision was that of the ballot. In 1848 and 1843, the election law which had been passed had been most beneficial, but it did not prevent corruption and the gagging and bribery of electors. It seemed that of late bribery was on the increase, and it behoved every man to endeavour to put a stop to what threatened to demoralize the whole country. For two years the ballot had been adopted in England, as well as in most of the provinces of Australia. The ballot, which had formerly been so repugnant to the English people, was now generally acknowledged a benefit, for where, before the ballot existed, there were bribery and corruption, such things were now almost unknown. In Australia, no bribery existed under the ballot, and the experience of that colony would be of very great benefit to Canada. Last year a large majority of the House voted in favour of the ballot—no doubt on account of the great corruption of the elections of 1872.