

House when the Bill is again under consideration there.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Oh, no. I may say to my honourable friend that the understanding is that if it is necessary to alter those dates so as to make them consonant with the tenor of the Bill, it will be done.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: And no objection will be taken?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No, no objection will be taken. That is what I understood to be the expression of the conference on the subject.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Before the motion is put, I want to congratulate the honourable senator from Hamilton upon the fair manner in which he suggested this amendment, and on his fair and candid explanation of the Bill. I think he deserves the thanks of this House, and I am sure he will receive those of the lower House. I was happy to associate myself with his proposal. Although not in consonance with some of my friends on this side of the House, I felt that his proposition, under the circumstances, was as fair as any that could be offered to this House. After so many conferences, running over several days, afternoons and nights, with no decision arrived at, as soon as the honourable gentleman made his proposal which is now embodied in this amendment, I felt, as a representative of the people, that it should be endorsed. The only thing I regret in this matter at present is the fact that the electors of the province of Nova Scotia, and especially the candidates, are not given sufficient time to study the voters' list. I am not objecting to the Bill itself, but I am pointing out that the electors and revisers and enumerators have to do all this tremendous work inside of fifteen days, or inside of six days. I am not going to propose any amendment, but would simply point out to the House of Commons that they would be perfectly justified in asking the Government to grant to the officers under their control sufficient time for the candidates and their agents and the electors to have full cognizance of the voters' lists—not fifteen, but at least forty, days before polling day. How is the enumerator in the space of four or five days going to take into consideration complaints from every polling division regarding names that have been added or subtracted? As a matter of fairness to the officers you are going

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to appoint to make those lists, I trust that members on both sides of the House of Commons will see that ample time is given to them to compile those lists with due respect to the interests of their respective divisions. I thank the honourable senator from Hamilton for having made the suggestion this afternoon, and I thank myself for having endorsed it.

The amendment was agreed to on division.

On the question of the third reading of the Bill:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Before that motion is put, I desire to say that we have dealt with certain amendments affecting the details of the Bill, but we have not altered the objections that were taken to the Bill itself on the second reading. A strong objection that was made at that time was that this Bill dealt only with the question of the franchise of certain subjects of His Majesty, and gave them a qualified franchise, and that certain other people were being disfranchised. That was a policy to which we on this side of the House took considerable exception. We think that it is a mistake that this Bill should be enacted at the present time. Therefore, I beg to move, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Dandurand:

That the said Bill be not now read the third time, but that it be referred back to the Committee of the Whole House with instructions to amend it by eliminating from it all provisions which tend to remove the franchise from any class of His Majesty's subjects who are now qualified electors according to the laws of the province in which they reside.

The motion was negatived on division.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I move, seconded by the honourable member for Mille Isles (Hon. Mr. David):

That this Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be recommitted to the Committee of the Whole House with instructions to amend the same so that in all cases where a voter's name was entered on the electoral list by an enumerator, and the right of such voter to vote was challenged at the time of voting, it be incumbent on such voter, if a recount be made before a judge, to prove his right to vote.

The motion was negatived on division.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: I do not want to give a silent vote on this Bill. Coupled with the Bill giving the franchise to the soldiers, this Bill is quite a departure from the practice of the past, and I am opposed to it because it does not follow the traditions which we have long loved and would like to see preserved now. The Bill is called the War-time Elections Act, and