

which is sitting all the year round? The members are always in office. If you have to wait for a resolution of the legislative assembly, you must wait until the assembly meets, and in that way it might take a much longer time before the resolution could be passed and the Act put into operation.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This is more expressive than a resolution of the executive of the province. That is the only thing I can say.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: Would it not be well to extend the time for taking the ballot? Paragraph b says the time shall be from 9 o'clock in the forenoon until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. It seems to me you ought to make some provision in this Bill whereby everybody will have an opportunity to vote. For instance, in urban districts, when a vote is being taken, it is perhaps inconvenient for men to get off from their work to record their vote during working hours. The principle of extending to 9 o'clock at night the time for receiving votes in urban districts has been adopted in the case of provincial elections. I think that is worth considering.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The hours provided in this Bill are practically those adopted by municipalities, and, I think, under the Election Act of each province. It would be undesirable, it seems to me, to depart from the well-established hours.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: In cities and urban districts the polls are open, I think, until 9 o'clock.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: If it is found hereafter that the time for polling is inconvenient, it will be an easy matter to amend the law in a detail of this kind. It would be very undesirable to amend it at the present moment. I do not know that the Commons will be in session when we pass this Bill.

New section 152 was agreed to.

New section 152A was agreed to.

On new section 153—proceedings thereafter to be same as are prescribed for bringing Part II of Canada Temperance Act into force. Returns to be made to Governor in Council, who shall declare prohibition in force if more than one-half of total vote is in favour:

Hon. MR. WATSON: Honourable gentlemen, I wish to repeat here the suggestion I have already made, that in a matter of this

kind there ought to be a majority of more than one-half of the total vote in favour of the measure. Any law of this description that is to be enforced by fines and penalties ought to have behind it, it seems to me, a very strong public sentiment; otherwise there is a disrespect for the law—not only for this law, but also for others. I suppose it is of no use to suggest an amendment; we expect the Governor to arrive in a few minutes; but I do submit that a law of this kind should be approved by more than 50 per cent of the voters.

New section 153 was agreed to.

New sections 154 and 155 were agreed to.

On new section 156—revocation of prohibition:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: As I understand this Bill, if prohibition is adopted in a province it will remain in force for three years, and after that an appeal may be made to the Secretary of State to have another vote taken in order to see whether the people are still in favour of it or not. Is that the intention?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: There must be a poll to repeal it. The repeal is brought about by practically the same machinery as that for the adoption of prohibition.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: And if prohibition is to be repealed must there be a further resolution of the legislative assembly?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes; it is done on the initiative of the legislative assembly.

New section 156 was agreed to.

Section 2 of the Bill was agreed to.

The preamble and the title were agreed to.

The Bill was reported.

THIRD READING.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Bill was read the third time and passed.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS BILL.

FIRST READING.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 27, an Act to amend an Act in aid of Provincial Legislation Prohibiting or Restricting the Sale or Use of Intoxicating Liquors.

The Bill was read the first time.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of the Bill.