

before Parliament all the relevant provisions that must be taken into account when the lists are made up. That would involve, in the first place, every provincial Act in the Dominion from one end to the other that bears upon the franchise, and if the suggestion were carried out to the full, it would also involve embodying in this Act the Dominion Elections Act, and the War-time Elections Act. We shall, however, take into the best consideration possible the suggestions that have been made, and see whether we can work out something that will meet the views of hon. gentlemen who have raised these points.

Mr. McKENZIE: I should like to bring to the notice of the Prime Minister the provision in paragraph (c) of subsection (2) in reference to the obtaining of certificates from a court of record or from a judge. That provision is going to work a great deal of hardship and expense. The Prime Minister knows that women cannot, as a rule, go before a court of record; judges do not care to have their courts swarming with women looking for certificates, and somebody else will have to get these certificates for them. But there is a worse feature than that. I can only speak for the constituency from which I come, but in my county there is a large section which is about eighty or one hundred miles away from a courthouse, or from any place where there is a judge, and it would be practically a physical impossibility for these women to get their certificates as provided in the Act. I do not see why any woman who is making application to be put on the list should not have the opportunity of satisfying the board, or whatever it may be, that she is qualified in every way under the Act, without being put to the expense and inconvenience of going before a judge for this certificate. There is no machinery here by which she can satisfy the judge that she is entitled to the certificate, and she should be in a position to appear before the court and satisfy the judge in that regard. There must be some procedure by which the judge is to be satisfied that she is entitled to the certificate. The Act is silent on that point, and a judge would be at a loss to know how he was to proceed to grant a certificate. When the Prime Minister is talking about the War-time Elections Act, as I happened to escape from its machinations as by fire, I have no particular spite against it, but let me warn the Prime Minister that this War-times Election Act stands away beyond anything that ever visited Egypt in its darkest days, and that those frogs, and

[Sir Robert Borden.]

other plagues of Egypt sink into insignificance compared with the terrors and dreads of the War-times Election Act. I would like to tell the Prime Minister that in the dear old province of Nova Scotia we are the best and simplest people in the world, and have got along for seventy or eighty years with the well-understood Franchise Act, where everybody gets his name on the list, and there is no trouble about it, and I would like to warn him that he is going to leave a very dark blot upon his name in that fair province, where he stands high and well to-day, if he introduces a measure similar to the War-time Elections Act, to create strife, dissension and dissatisfaction.

Hon. A. L. SIFTON: I was rather surprised that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McKenzie) who has had some experience on the bench, should imagine that judges have any objections at all to women calling at their chambers, I have had some experience myself along that line, and I never heard of any objection being raised by any of the members of the bench in Canada until today.

Mr. McKENZIE: I was objecting to too many at the same time.

Mr. SIFTON: I agree thoroughly in regard to that, but if there is anything in this Act that would allow more than one lady to come to the chambers at one time, it certainly should be eliminated. But this paragraph was put in for the purpose of providing that, under no circumstances, will a female foreigner be able to vote without having the same qualifications as a male foreigner. There are hundreds and thousands of cases of women attaining the age, and becoming British subjects by the naturalization of their fathers, who have only been a few months in the country. It may seem an anomaly to those who have been in the habit of thinking that you had to remain three or five years in the country to become naturalized, but this clause was for the purpose of meeting the special case of people who had not spent any length of time in the country, but who were still naturalized British subjects. Thousands of foreigners have come to this country, leaving their families at home. They have spent the necessary three or five years in the country, and their families being minors, have arrived a short time before they became naturalized. Those families became British subjects two or three months after their arrival in the country. There are thousands of cases of that kind in Canada at the present time, people who became