

DOMINION FRANCHISE BILL  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

On motion of Right Hon. Mr. Meighen, the Senate went into Committee on Bill 101, an Act respecting the Franchise of Electors at Elections of Members of the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. Donnelly in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Honourable members, in view of the length of this Bill and the statement that was made before 6 o'clock by the honourable gentleman from DeLorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) that it was not the practice for the Senate to give minute scrutiny to bills regarding elections, I suggest that instead of taking the sections one after another we consider only those to which attention is drawn.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Our real purpose in going into Committee is not to make changes of our own in the Bill. I do not know that we ought to make such changes unless there appeared to be something seriously wrong. Our intention now is rather to amend the measure so as to make it conform with what the House of Commons intended it to be. That is to say, we should correct such slips as have occurred. The first is:

Page 5, sub-subclause xii of subclause c, lines 32 and 33: transpose the words "in the province of British Columbia" to the first part of sub-subclause xii.

As the clause now stands it reads:

Every Doukhobor person in the province of British Columbia, and every descendant of any such person—

and so on. Apparently the Leader of the Opposition in another place thought it would read better in this way:

In the province of British Columbia every Doukhobor person, and every descendant of any such person,

If I may express an opinion, I think he is right. I move that that amendment be made.

The motion was agreed to.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The next is:

Page 23, line 40: strike out the word "qualified."

It reads here: "and if on any of such days any qualified person whose name has been omitted," and so on.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: It reads "qualified elector" in my copy.

Hon. Mr. HARMER: And in mine too.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: On further consideration, I am inclined to leave this as it is, "qualified person." I do not like to suggest a change.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I think the words "qualified person" are right. If a change were made, half a dozen aliens might show up and be vouched for by some person whose name is on the list.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the honourable senator is right. I will not move that amendment.

The next is:

Page 27, line 4: strike out the word "good."

The wording is "as in the good judgment of such first named person," and so forth. It cannot be assumed that the judgment was good.

The motion was agreed to.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The next amendment is:

Page 28, line 19: strike out "sub" after the word "polling" and before "division."

It should read "polling division" and not "polling subdivision." That seems quite reasonable.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Suppose there is not a post office in the polling division?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: One would more likely be in a division than in a subdivision.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The last part of the paragraph reads:

or, if there is no post office therein, then in the post office nearest thereto.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill, as amended, was reported.

THIRD READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE BILLS

BURDEN OF PROOF

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I move that we now adjourn during pleasure; but it will be necessary for us to meet again before prorogation takes place. There are some bills to come from the other House, and we have before us a number of bills to which we have not given final consideration.