

many polling divisions and you cannot work this Act out unless you have an enumerator for each division. That is the basic principle of the Act. The polling division is the unit and the enumerator attends to that division; he is right there on polling day; he does his work as best he can; he has to make out his certificates of refusals. If we appointed township clerks we would have to have many deputies.

Mr. ROSS: Not at all; the deputy returning officer would do the work.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, the deputy returning officer has not been doing the work all along. The enumerator has been doing the work, or, in the case the hon. gentleman suggests, the township clerk. He knows the lists; he knows Mrs. Smith; he knows why John Brown is off the list. He is in a position, consequently, to do the work well on election day. On the contrary, the deputy returning officer would be a new man on the job. He would have his other duties to attend to, and you could not reasonably heap these new duties upon him.

Mr. McCRAANEY: Very frequently in the West we have to appoint enumerators as deputy returning officers, because there are many districts in which you cannot get two men.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Where there are small polls it might be necessary.

Mr. L. A. LAPOINTE: It is half an hour since my suggestion of this afternoon, that this Bill be reprinted, was endorsed by my hon. friends from Carleton (Mr. Carvell) and Halifax (Mr. A. K. Maclean).

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is half an hour since the Bill went down to be reprinted.

Mr. L. A. LAPOINTE: I am glad to hear that the order has been given. We have lost half an hour, because it is difficult to understand this Bill as we have it. I hope that the Secretary of State will present a Bill with a proper classification of the clauses so that we shall be able to understand it. I suggest that we should discuss one clause at a time, so that everybody will know what is being discussed. I am glad that the Government has acceded to my request to have this Bill reprinted so that it may be presented in proper form.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT: Perhaps the committee is not acquainted with all the facts with regard to the ordinary ridings in Ontario. The member for West Middlesex (Mr. Ross) suggests that the township clerks should prepare the list of names to be added.

If he will think for a moment, I am sure his experience will tell him that the ordinary township clerk has something other to do than the business of a township clerk. In one township the man may be a druggist. The ordinary township—I am not speaking about those which are irregularly shaped—is about twelve miles by fourteen miles. Surely you would not expect a druggist or a merchant—and many country merchants are township clerks—to go over an area of twelve miles by fourteen miles in order to ascertain which women in that area may be entitled to be put upon the list under this caption. That would be quite without the mark. Let us consider another fact. The ordinary polling division, at least in my county, comprises at least between 150 and 200 names. If you have an enumerator in that district, he will be able to cast his eye over it and recall the names of the men in that district who have enlisted. It is then an easy matter for him to tabulate those names and prepare the list. Surely not much expense will be incident to that. As to the question of the enumerator remaining as it were in appeal, the Bill says:

The enumerator shall attend at the time and place so designated for at least two consecutive hours on each of said ten days,

And so on. That will not mean much expense. Our hon. friends from the Maritime Provinces speak of all those officers being appointed, as it were, by law. As a matter of fact, in Ontario in many municipalities the same man may not be township clerk for two years running. He is simply appointed by the township council or the town council. One man may be assessor this year. He may become disgusted with the smallness of the salary, or he may have some other cares that take up his time, and may give up the position. The assessor is a "come and go" man. Yet the basis of the lists of the whole township comprising 600 or 700 names is prepared by a man who may be an assessor this year and who may never be an assessor again. He is in no sense an official of a Government, either provincial or federal; he is simply the creature of the township council for that year. The ordinary township clerk may be a farmer or a merchant. Surely you can expect an enumerator to put on the names of ten or twenty women in a division that will have from 150 to 200 names when you can trust him to put on the names in a township of 600 or 700 people. The matter is simple. No man in a polling division is going to be so grossly unfair to his