

tary to the High Commissioner in London respectively. The latter shall communicate by telegraph the contents of the statements, and subsequently forward by registered mail the statements themselves to the general returning officer, who is to be appointed and act in this country to receive all returns and declare final results.

Sir SAM HUGHES: What am I to understand the Commissioner of Canada in Paris, and the Commissioner of Canada in England, to mean?

Mr. DOHERTY: They are to receive and transmit. It was necessary that we should have some central place in France and in England to which all of those boxes or receptacles could be forwarded for distribution to the special returning officers called upon to do the counting. We called them "ballot boxes" but by definition we make it clear that any suitable receptacle shall answer the requirement of a "ballot box."

Sir SAM HUGHES: Why not send them to the Deputy Clerk of the Crown in Chancery?

Mr. DOHERTY: If my hon. friend will allow me, he will see it is merely to secure a proper location to which all the boxes can be sent. The secretary of the High Commissioner in London—because the High Commissioner himself does not figure in the matter at all—and the commissioner to France, have no function to perform with regard to the counting of the ballots. The provision is that the receptacles or boxes shall be forwarded to them closed and sealed in the best manner that can be found. Their function is limited to fixing a time and place after the expiry of a delay fixed in the Act, when they will hand those boxes over, unopened and still sealed, into the custody of the special returning officers who are to do the counting. When those special returning officers have done the counting, and the assortment also—because that would be an important part of the operation, inasmuch as the ballots will not come already assorted in boxes belonging to particular constituencies; and we have endeavoured to surround the operation of counting and assortment with every precaution that seems reasonably possible—they shall establish the result and communicate it to the commissioner in France and to the secretary of the commissioner in England for transmission to the General Returning Officer in Canada.

Sir SAM HUGHES: The minister said that these would come in special ballot [Mr. Doherty.]

boxes by constituencies. How is it possible to have them by constituencies?

Mr. DOHERTY: The hon. gentleman misunderstood me. I pointed out that one very important operation would be necessary, namely, assortment, because returns could not possibly come by constituencies. The assorting as well as the counting would come within the duty of the special returning officers and their clerks. They would furnish statements of the results to the commissioner in Paris and to the commissioner in London for transmission to Canada. So far as the secretary of the High Commissioner, or the commissioner to Paris is used, he is used simply as affording a convenient method of gathering together at one point the result of the operation and transmitting it over here.

I have referred to an officer to be known as the general returning officer. This is an officer whose services are made necessary by the fact that we shall have going on an election overseas and an election upon this side of the Atlantic. It is necessary that somebody should gather together the results of those two different subdivisions of the election and, adding them together, ascertain and return the general result. For that purpose we provide for the appointment of a general returning officer to whom shall come all of the returns from overseas, from Bermuda, and from the military voting in Canada—because we have to make provision for the taking of the votes of military voters in Canada who may, in large numbers, be absent from their constituencies. This general returning officer shall receive the returns from all these sources, and it will be his duty, adding the returns so received to those of the general voting in Canada to announce the result and proclaim therefrom the candidate elected in each constituency.

The provisions for the taking of the soldiers' vote obviously make it impossible for a returning officer in a particular constituency to make a return that a man has been elected, because he has before him only the votes of the people voting at home. We provide in the general returning officer an officer who shall receive these results and make return with regard to each constituency, after the information from all these different sources has come in to him.

Mr. MARCIL: What becomes of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery?