

weeks day after day to cover the county of Gaspé from end to end, and then I had the satisfaction of being beaten by six votes. My opponent at the time was the Prime Minister of the province and he had fixed one clear month between nomination and voting. Voting used to come one or two weeks after the nomination but in that year there was apparently a premonition that something would happen to the party in power—as it did happen—and instead of putting the voting later than the general voting, the voting was placed on the same day but the nomination was fixed one month earlier. There is no human possibility of holding an election in Gaspé between November and May unless you give the returning officer at least two weeks in which to send to Quebec to have his ballots printed and to distribute the ballots, and I am sure if you refer the matter to the returning officer himself he will place one month between nomination and voting. As far as the islands are concerned, I believe the old provision exists that you can wire over the proclamation.

Mr. MONK. I find there is already a provision in the Elections Act of 1900 section 151, that information of the result of the voting may be made by telegraphic communication between Chicoutimi and Saguenay and Gaspé, and that after obtaining such information by telegraph the returning officer may make his proclamation. As he is allowed to make his proclamation by telegraph I do not see that there is very much difficulty. Of course the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) knows more about the district than I do, although I still maintain that I know as much as the Minister of Justice, but as regards the time that must elapse between nomination and voting my hon. friend from Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) is mistaken, because according to the last Quebec electoral law, the law of 1903, as I read section 7, the voting must take place eight days after nomination. There remains the questions of printing of the ballots.

Mr. C. MARCIL. The whole year around or only in the summer time?

Mr. MONK. The whole year except in the Magdalen Islands. No election can take place in the Magdalen Islands between December 15 and May 20 but if telegraphic communication can be legalized by statute of course that can be obviated.

There remains the important questions of the printing of the ballots which of course can be easily overcome if there is a printing press in the Magdalen Islands. As that locality is progressive there may be one before long, and in the provincial statutes it is provided that the elections shall take place as indicated under section 97 if possible. Those two words could be introduced into the Federal Act with the amendment I have suggested, and as soon as the diffi-

culty of printing the ballots could be obviated then the elections could be held all over at the same time.

Mr. C. MARCIL. The best way to deal with Gaspé is to leave the matter open and let the returning officer be the judge. Circumstances vary with the season. In the summer you can cover the whole district easily, but from November until May it is difficult. The maritime road on the south shore is sometimes closed in winter and it is impossible to cover the distance in four days from Cap Chat to Cap Gaspé; you must send to Quebec to get the ballots printed. It is not the distribution of the boxes, as this might be done days before. You have to wire the names of the candidates to Quebec, and have the ballots printed, brought to Gaspé and then have them taken to the different subdivisions by horse or sled or dog train, on the south shore. It is impossible to cover that great area in eight days.

Mr. MONK. The means of communication are increasing every day and with such a very able representative as my hon. friend the district should be able to secure good communication. I am afraid my hon. friend conceived a gloomy impression of the peninsula in 1897.

Mr. C. MARCIL. I must admit that the communications in the summer time are improved, but I am sorry the Solicitor General is not present. He would point out that we have now a splendid steamship service on the south side, which we had not in 1897 and we also have a service on the Bay de Chaleurs side. Then we have 100 miles of railway in Bonaventure county and that is being extended, but all these while they are good in the summer, but we have only the railway in the winter.

Mr. ALCORN. I am very glad indeed to hear the hon. member for Bonaventure state that fourteen days was sufficient time to allow between nomination and polling.

Section, as amended, agreed to.

Bill as amended reported.

#### FISHERIES ACT—AMENDMENT.

Bill (No. 74) to amend the Dominion Fisheries Act (Mr. Prefontaine) was read the second time and House went into committee thereon.

On section 1,

1. The 'Fisheries Act,' chapter 95 of the Revised Statutes, is amended by inserting the following section immediately after section 6:—

'6a. No one shall, at any time, engage in the manufacture from whales of oil or other commercial product, and no vessel or boat shall be employed in the whale fishery, except under license from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, under a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars and not less than three hundred dollars.