

in Ottawa an excellent selection of pictures; and not only that, but they are kept in very fine condition. I highly recommend our four Canalettos; I think they are the finest in the world. All of them are now in our gallery unless some are out on loan. We also have some Van Dycks, a Titian, and a Constable which any gallery would find hard to beat.

I am very glad to see this bill before the house. I hope that Ottawa will soon have accommodation in which to put a still better collection.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, I move that this bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The motion was agreed to.

CANADA ELECTIONS BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson moved the second reading of Bill 41, an Act to amend the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, and to change its title to the Canada Elections Act.

He said: Honourable senators may recall that during the last three sessions of parliament a special committee of the House of Commons was set up to study the several amendments to the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, and amendments thereto suggested by the Chief Electoral Officer, and to suggest such further amendments as the committee deemed advisable.

Last November 16th the special committee presented to the House of Commons its second report, to which was attached a proposed draft bill embodying its recommendations. The bill which is before us is identical with that draft bill and, generally speaking, contains technical amendments suggested by the Chief Electoral Officer to the various sections of the Dominion Elections Act, 1938. It also contains the amendments suggested by members of the special committee.

Honourable senators, it has been the practice of this house to take the view that the members of the House of Commons, as the elected representatives of the country, are really more directly concerned with bills of this kind than we are. Nevertheless, it is our duty to give this legislation our full consideration.

Hon. John T. Haig: Honourable senators, do not intend to confine myself to the provisions of this bill; and I only regret that it does not contain some provisions which I think should be in it. I think there should be provision for a single transferable vote in our dominion elections.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I understand that this suggestion was made to the committee in the other place, and I should like to say a few words about it. The way the single transferable vote works in Manitoba is this. Several candidates may be put up: a Liberal, a Progressive Conservative, a C.C.F., an Independent, and perhaps a communist. The voter puts "1" opposite the candidate of his choice. Then he puts "2" opposite the candidate of another party who in the alternative, would be his second choice. Then he puts "3" opposite his third choice, and so on. Some may ask how you can do this when the policies of the different parties are not the same. Well, you decide beforehand for whom you wish to vote. Then you decide who, in the alternative, you would like to see elected. For instance, when I go to the poll I decide that my number one choice is the Conservative candidate. My next step is to decide whether I want the Liberal, the C.C.F., the Independent or the communist candidate.

Hon. Mr. Paterson: Do you have to vote for the others?

Hon. Mr. Haig: No, you can vote for one and call it quits, or you can vote for two and call it quits, and so on. It is argued that it is not a good idea that a candidate should be returned on a minority vote. But that is not really what happens. At a Conservative convention they try to nominate a candidate who will be the second choice of non-Conservative voters. In other words, they nominate a man or woman whose character and ability will command a great deal of public support. It will be said that this is true in any election, but it is not the same thing at all. Honourable senators, you would be surprised to learn that all this results in only one or two changes in each election.

Hon. Mr. Lacasse: In the selection of candidates?

Hon. Mr. Haig: Oh, it makes a big difference in the selection of candidates, but the results of the election show little change. I remember well what happened in Minnedosa during a provincial election when on the first count one candidate had a majority of five votes over the second-place candidate. The third candidate then dropped out and his