

years, and the men who did this were rewarded by the government for their rascality. I am sure when I point out this fact, the government will feel it incumbent on them to make it right. I take it that this government is willing to do what is fair and right, and in the matter of elections there is nothing so important as that they should be pure and honest and the voice of the people should freely be expressed. Under this law I am permitted to go to a man and say: 'Vote for us and I will show you how to vote safely and the returning officer will see to it, and you will get your money.' In the election in New Brunswick there were four candidates running, each party using their own ballots, and these were the official ballots. You went to the returning officer as a voter and he gave you an envelope, initialled it, and you went behind the screen and put in that envelope whatever ballot you pleased. That was the secret ballot. The way it was managed was this: A voter would be handed a ballot and told that there was no other ballot like it, and if he put it in, properly marked, he would get ten dollars. Each ballot was different and they had forty combinations of that ballot, no two of which were alike. Every man was on the agent's books with the price agreed upon for his vote, and when the returning officer, on counting the ballots, found that he had delivered the goods the voter got his money. I learned how it was done from the man who did the trick. When I saw that the man who should have been elected was declared defeated, I inquired and found out how it was done. I know that that was done in two ridings and that if they had not done it, Mr. Hazen would not have been elected himself, because in a place where he was a very strong man, instead of having a majority of thirty-five he was defeated by ten. This will work just as well in the unorganized districts, in fact very much easier, and it cannot be worked on the opposition side. You have to make the elector believe that you are in league with the returning officer.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—If the hon. gentleman is trying to convince the government, he is losing time.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—It is the duty of the government, when I point out where

wrong can be done under this clause, to amend it and prevent wrong-doing. I do not think they realize how the fraud can be accomplished. I would not if I had not seen it worked in New Brunswick and had not learned from the man who did it how it was done. I shall move an amendment to this clause, in the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It is only wasting time I know to address the House on this subject. When an hon. gentleman was pointing out in a very practical manner how elections could be stolen under the provisions of this Bill, the members of the government thought proper to absent themselves, thereby treating with contempt the remarks of those who have opinions on the subject of a pure and fair election law. For that reason, I do not know that there is any use in speaking, unless it is to use an expression which fell a few days ago from the hon. senator from Middlesex, when he was advocating the continuance of the official reports of our debates; one wants to embalm his opinions and views. For that reason I shall express my views in committee on the clauses as they are taken up. The hon. leader of the opposition congratulated the government on having receded from their first position on the Bill as introduced, because they felt compelled to do so by public opinion. There is no credit for their retreat, because they only receded when they could not help themselves. From the attitude of the opposition, they saw that the Bill could not pass until its iniquitous provisions were abandoned. Why is Quebec omitted from the provisions of this Bill, so far as the unorganized territories of that province are concerned? It may be said that most of them are under municipal institutions, and the voters' lists are provided for; but the National Transcontinental Railway passes through a very sparsely settled or wholly unsettled portion of the province of Quebec and a large body of men are working on the railway. Is it not just as important that those who are employed in the unorganized districts of Quebec should be looked after as that a similar population in northern Ontario should be looked after, as provided for by this Bill. I can only come to the conclusion that the province of Quebec being under the