

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, if the Governor in Council does not appoint them, the returning officer makes the appointment. That is exactly the provision in the old Act, and that is the way they have been appointed in the province for years. It was always left to the returning officer, because in practice, nobody else could do it. We leave the Act as it stands.

Mr. CARVELL: There is no possibility of that here, because section 42 says:

Subject to the provisions of 65A of this Act, the Governor in Council may appoint enumerators in each province to make lists of the electors in each electoral district, and the returning officer of each electoral district shall assign one of such enumerators to each polling district therein.

So that the Governor in Council must make the appointment, and once these men are appointed the returning officer has the right to assign them to their respective places.

Mr. MEIGHEN: But the next subsection says that if the Governor in Council does not appoint, the returning officer makes the appointment.

Mr. BUREAU: Whether the returning officer appoints them, or the Governor in Council appoints them, makes no difference. The Act says the enumerator shall be taken from the particular municipality where he is to act. There is nothing in the Bill which I have seen which provides for that.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. gentleman, I understand, suggests that they should be from the same municipality.

Mr. BUREAU: Yes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I should think that would be inevitable. They would have to be in the neighbourhood, or they could not do the work.

Mr. BUREAU: It is very easy to say this man should be a resident of the municipality where he is called to act as enumerator. There is nothing to prevent the returning officer or the Governor in Council from appointing a man in another place.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, but the returning officer would not do it, because the man could not do the work. The Act has always been in that form.

Mr. BUREAU: We never had any enumerators in Quebec. We know nothing about the working of that branch of the Act. We have clerks and secretary-treasurers and municipal councillors, and

[Mr. Devlin.]

secretaries of the school board. These men would know every man, woman and child, and would know where they lived. They have been there for years. The objection made by the Secretary of State to the appointment of such men was the fact that they would have too large a territory to cover.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They could not be in two or three places at once. They have to be at the polling place on election day, and they have to take care of each individual poll. That is the reason we cannot appoint a clerk of the township to take care of the township.

Mr. BUREAU: There are few municipalities that I know of in Quebec where they have more than two clerks; they seldom have three. This enumerator could take care of two polls. There is a great deal of information we desire to obtain from the Solicitor General, and many suggestions we wish to make, to guard against any appointment being made that would not assist in the working out of the Act.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Is it the intention of the Bill to disfranchise persons whose place of origin was Switzerland?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Oh, no.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Would those who are residing in Canada, who are naturalized not be disqualified because the mother tongue of more than one third of them is German?

Mr. MEIGHEN: If the mother tongue was German, and they came to Canada and were naturalized in the last 15 years, they would be disqualified in this election, and if the hon. member knew all the facts I do not think he would consider that was any variation of the principle of the Bill, nor any injustice.

Mr. OLIVER: I might give an instance which would have some bearing on the case. Mr. A. S. Rosenroll, a native of Switzerland, was M.L.A. for the district of Wetaskiwin for several terms in the local legislature. When the war broke out, his eldest son volunteered in the Princess Pats. He was disabled for life, and then his second son volunteered, and I am afraid he has met a similar fate.

Mr. MEIGHEN: He would be entitled to vote on three grounds.

Mr. OLIVER: Yes, I understand.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Firstly because he has been a member of the legislature; second-