

Mr. FIELDING: In our province proclamations have been published outside the post offices.

Mr. PROULX: I think this procedure is new. Formerly the returning officer had to post proclamations in the three most conspicuous places in every polling subdivision. I approve of the change. These proclamations will now be seen at the post offices, the mailing to each post office will be sufficient, and it will decrease the election costs.

Mr. GUTHRIE: And of course each candidate gets five additional copies. But there might be some question as to how this would work out in big cities where there is only one post office.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This clause is likely to give rise to further discussion. It is now eleven o'clock, I have seen only a dozen members on the Government side for some time past, and I think we have already done a pretty good day's work.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Then I move that clause 37 stand.

Mr. DuTREMBLAY: I think in amending this section to make it apply to any other province it should be understood absolutely that both languages are to be used in the provinces of Quebec and Manitoba, and that in these two provinces the issuance of the proclamation in the French language is not to be left to the discretion of the returning officer.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The clause will stand. I move that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. CANNON: Before we are through with this clause I want to point out—

The CHAIRMAN: The motion that the Committee rise and report progress is not debatable. If the hon. member for Dorchester desires to say a few words I will ask the Acting Solicitor General to withdraw his motion, but clause 37 stands and the hon. member will have a further opportunity of speaking to it.

Mr. CANNON: I will not proceed.

Motion agreed to.

Progress reported.

On the motion of Right Hon. Mr. Doherty, the House adjourned at 10.59 p.m.

[Mr. Guthrie.]

Friday, April 9, 1920.

The House met at Three o'clock.

#### RETURNED SOLDIERS' COMMITTEE.

On motion of Mr. E. W. NESBITT (Oxford N.), the First Report of the Special Committee, appointed to consider the question of continuing the War Bonus now being paid to pensioners and to continue the inquiries relating to Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, presented to the House on Thursday, 8th April, was concurred in.

#### RETURNED SOLDIERS—CASH GRATUITIES.

STATEMENT BY RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE FOSTER, ACTING PRIME MINISTER.

On the Orders of the Day:

Rt. Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Acting Prime Minister): Before the Orders of the Day are called, Mr. Speaker, I desire with the indulgence of the House, to make a short statement with reference to the payment of gratuities or bonuses to returned soldiers.

Two representations have been placed before the Government, one by the Great War Veterans' Association, based upon resolutions passed at their meeting in Montreal, and another by representatives of a number of soldiers' organizations whose headquarters are in Toronto. Both of these representations contemplate the payment of a cash gratuity or bonus to all returned soldiers, and although there are differences as to the amounts of these bonuses requested and the bases upon which the amounts are arrived at, yet the representations are both generically the same in the fact that they ask for a cash gratuity to be paid to the individual soldier.

The opinion of the Government was fairly well expressed at the last session of Parliament after a long and very careful examination into the whole subject of readjustment, reconstitution, and relief by a committee of this House. At that time it was intimated that the Government was not in favour of such a cash payment of a bonus or gratuity. Since then the Government has given additional care and consideration to the matter and has come to the conclusion that it cannot change its mind with reference to the payment of a cash gratuity. There are various reasons for the Government's stand. We must take into account the financial conditions of the country and all the other interests that