

them. I would suggest that the enumerators should live in the municipality and, if it were possible, that the secretary-treasurer of the municipality should be the enumerator. I think that would be the fairer way because the secretary-treasurer is a man that has some responsibility. He holds his position through the good-will of every inhabitant of the municipality. Perhaps the word "municipality" may seem strange to or scare some of my hon. friends opposite. I understand that in some provinces municipality means the whole county.

Mr. HAZEN: That is the case in New Brunswick.

Mr. BUREAU: In Quebec a municipality that has three polling divisions is a very large one. By the word "parish" we mean all the worshippers that belong to a church, and, for administrative purposes, the municipal boundaries are all the same, so that there is in our province a closer kind of affinity between the people in a municipality on account of our institutions than there is in the other provinces, out West, for instance. The secretary-treasurer, as I said this afternoon, is thoroughly acquainted with, not only every man and woman in his municipality, but every child. He is at the same time the secretary-treasurer of the school board for the district. I would ask the Solicitor General—this would not take much of an amendment—to insert in the Bill that in Quebec the secretary-treasurer of the municipality shall be the enumerator. The absolute and complete knowledge that he has of his municipality will make it easier for him to take care of three polls than if you take a man who is not accustomed to going through the assessment rolls and the rolls of the children at school. With men who are accustomed to the work, you would need three men, if each one has to attend to only one poll. The secretary-treasurer is usually a man of education. He is generally a notary. Sometimes, of course, his duties do not involve much work, because the valuation is only revised. As has been stated by some hon. gentleman opposite, the changes in a municipality, especially in an old one, are just the deaths and births, and when the electoral list is revised those who have gone are stricken out and the young men who have reached the age of twenty-one years are added. I make a last appeal to the Solicitor General, not in the way of embarrassing him, nor of delaying the Bill, but in the way of help-

[Mr. Bureau.]

ing along the execution of this law, and of helping along the enfranchisement of the people whom the Bill desires to reach and the disfranchisement of those whom the Bill wishes to disfranchise. The secretary-treasurer knows better than any one else when a man of alien enemy nationality came to the municipality and whether he is naturalized or not. The municipalities are so small, the people are so close together, and their relations, I might say, so intimate, that the secretary-treasurers know the family history of any one perfectly well. Should the Solicitor General decide that he cannot grant that, I would ask him to add after the words "the Governor in Council" the words "may, in the province of Quebec, appoint an assessor residing within the municipality for which he has to act, or in the neighbouring municipality." We do not want to impose upon other provinces what we think right in Quebec.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is just the difficulty that has arisen several times. You cannot make any rule on that point that would be applicable everywhere, and still every province is just in the same position, so far as the real substance of the case is concerned, as Quebec. I do not see any formidable objection really to appointing an enumerator from the municipality, nor even from the neighbouring municipality, and I venture to predict that every one will be appointed out from municipality and not even the neighbouring one. One might get a case in which the right man was just across the road, in which the man everybody would want was the town clerk, perhaps, and could not reside in the municipality. He might reside outside. There would be no gain by my hon. friend's amendment. The great chance is that every one who will be selected will reside in the municipality because he must reside in the polling division to know his work, to be qualified to do it. I do not like the idea of selecting an individual man and saying to him: You must do this work. That is not the spirit of this Bill. The man, as soon as he is sworn to act, is then bound to act, but it would hardly be right to put the hand of the law on every secretary-treasurer in Quebec, who may, in some cases, be engaged pretty steadily in his own work and may have other engagements and occupations besides, and say to him: No matter how busy you are; no matter whether your present time is occupied from morning until night, no matter what sacrifice it may be for you, for the sake of \$30