

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

June 8, 1948.

The Special Committee on the Dominion Elections Act met this day at 8:30 p.m. The Chairman, Mr. W. E. Harris, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I think there were three sections of the bill that we had not touched on. I am going to call section 6. I understand Mr. Mutch has a motion to make with respect to section 6.

Mr. MUTCH: Mr. Chairman, I move that the following be inserted as paragraph 8 in section 14 of the Dominion Elections Act as set out in section 6 of bill 198.

Paragraph (i) of subsection 2 of the said section 14 is repealed as of the 31st day of March, 1949.

Mr. BERTRAND: What section did you say?

The CHAIRMAN: If you will allow me, it is on page 3 of the bill.

Mr. MUTCH: Section 6, subsection (i).

The CHAIRMAN: Subsection (i) reads:

Every person who is disqualified by reason of race from voting at the election of a member of the legislative assembly of the province in which he or she resides and who did not serve in the naval, military or air forces of Canada in the war 1914-18, or in the war that began on the 10th day of September, 1939.

Mr. MUTCH: The effect of my motion would be to remove the disqualification which presently exists in the Act at the same time that the order in council imposing restrictions on the Japanese Canadians would be removed from the legislation.

Mr. BERTRAND: From what?

Mr. MUTCH: From the present legislation; that order in council will expire.

Mr. BERTRAND: As from the 31st of March, 1949?

Mr. MUTCH: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: If we take section 6 of the bill and run through it by sections we have the picture before us. Section 6 is a restatement of section 14 of the Act, and sets out the qualifications of a voter. Subsection (1) gives the qualification of a British subject over 21 years of age, ordinarily resident 12 months, and at a by-election resident until polling day. Shall subsection (1) of section 14 carry?

Carried.

Subsection (2) sets out the disqualification of an Indian person who did not serve in the war, and (i) is the subsection which presently disqualifies persons of Japanese race.

Mr. MACINNIS: Mr. Chairman, it is true that because of amendments made to the British Columbia Elections Act at the last session this year that at the moment only persons of Japanese origin are disqualified, but as the paragraph now stands it disqualifies any voter that any province may disqualify by reason of race.