

Mr. MEIGHEN: If he knew the names of the soldiers, would he know the names of the sisters, mothers and wives?

Mr. ROSS: To a great extent he would.

Mr. LALOR: Is it not a fact that, in many municipalities, the clerk has become a very old man?

Mr. ROSS: In some cases he is. My hon. friend is justifying my argument that the clerk is a prominent official, and if he is a very old man, he has been there a long time, and is all the better acquainted with the soldiers and their relatives, so that he does not have to go around the township, as the hon. member for East Simcoe suggests. But even if he had to go round the township, he could do it in less time than any one else. Under the provisions of this Act, if any person is left off, there are ten days within which to make application, and they can make application to the clerk just as well as to the enumerator. One of my hon. friends said the list could be corrected if any mistakes were made by the enumerator. But the list cannot be corrected under this Act, except on a recount. Under section 62 of the Bill, as I read it, there is nothing the deputy returning officer could do that the enumerator could not do. Section 62 of the Act as amended by this Bill will read as follows:

Subject to the provisions of section 65A of this Act, any person whose name is not on the voters' list of a polling division, but who claims that it should be thereon, may, at any time during which the poll is open, apply to the enumerator of such polling division.

On what ground can he or she apply to be a voter? Just because she is a relative of a soldier or on the ground that she has been improperly rejected by the clerk as an alien? These are simple things. What are they to do? They have simply to make an affidavit under this Act, showing that they are not aliens, or that they are entitled to be on the list as soldiers' relatives. Surely the deputy returning officer can go into that matter, as well as the enumerator.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the hon. gentleman think a returning officer has time to take down the names of soldiers, their relatives and antecedents? Has the voting all to stop while he is doing this?

Mr. ROSS: My hon. friend said a little while ago that there would be few of such men. Each polling subdivision accommodates 300 voters. The fact is that this Government proposes to appoint anywhere from 15,000 to 25,000 enumerators.

[Mr. Ross.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: There would be just as many under my hon. friend's plan.

Mr. ROSS: I beg my hon. friend's pardon; there would be no such thing.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There will not be much pay for each one, because his work will be neither long nor heavy. You cannot work this Act unless you have some one to take care of each poll—some one who has made the list for the poll and knows all about it. I do not see why my hon. friend did not raise this point years ago, because the same thing has been done in Alberta and Saskatchewan and his objections would apply as much in that case as in this.

Mr. ROSS: Does my hon. friend deny that 15,000 enumerators will be appointed by the Government?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have not counted the number, but there will be someone to do the work at each poll. There will have to be 15,000 deputy returning officers, and there will have to be so many returning officers. The deputy returning officer cannot undertake the revision of the lists on the day of polling. In some polls he might, but not in a poll designed to accommodate 300 voters.

Mr. ROSS: I am not asking that the deputy returning officer make up the list. My hon. friend does not appreciate my point. The clerk makes up the list and is most familiar with it. The only thing the deputy returning officer does is this: if a man comes on polling day and says he should be on the list but was struck off by the clerk, the deputy returning officer examines his qualifications. I am asking that my hon. friend add to the duty of the deputy returning officer that of deciding, the comparatively few cases that will arise whether a man was wrongfully on the list or was wrongfully eliminated from the list. I ask him further to apply a non-partisan system to the choice of those who shall make up the list in Ontario, rather than an utterly partisan system which lends colour to the suspicion that the Government does not wish to be fair in the administration of this Act.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I think that the language of my hon. friend is rather extravagant. I call his attention to section 42 of the Dominion Elections Act, which in part is as follows:

In the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Governor in Council may appoint