

case of sickness, it is forbidden to cause to be brought or carried, or to bring or carry, within the limits of the electoral district within which an election is held, or from one place to another within the said limits, any gratuity whatever or spirituous or fermented liquor.

This provision shall not affect the sale, carrying, delivery or purchase of spirituous or fermented liquor made in good faith and in the ordinary course of affairs by a merchant or trader; provided that the cases, casks, bottles or envelopes containing the said liquor be not opened, broken or unclosed during the days above mentioned.

Section 107c. During the days mentioned in the two next preceding sections and under the same limitation of time as to cities, whoever is found under the influence of liquor, and consequently disturbing public order in or on any street, lane, road, by-road or public square, or in any hotel, restaurant, tavern or place of public resort whatever, within the limits of an electoral district in which an election is held, is liable to a fine of _____ dollars, and in default of payment to an imprisonment of _____ days, or to both.

These clauses may appear to be rather severe; but I would call the attention of the committee to the fact that in a great many constituencies liquor plays a most important part, especially on the day of polling, and on the day preceding the polling. Now, I may say frankly, and it is something which many of my hon. friends who are now listening to me know to be the case, that on the day preceding polling, and after the speeches have been delivered and the public questions have been discussed for weeks, unscrupulous men bring liquor into the constituencies. They have meetings on the night preceding the election; they have parties, soirees, balls, at which liquor is distributed, and men are made to drink and become intoxicated, and the next day they are taken to the polls like so many sheep to vote. Men who do not understand what they are doing are made to vote in the morning when they are still under the influence of liquor. I know that this abuse exists, and other hon. gentlemen around me know that it exists, and it is to provide against this abuse that I suggest the adoption of these amendments. These sections are incorporated in the law of the province of Quebec, and I think that during the last election they deterred a great many people from a practice which has been prevalent in the past, and which has caused a great perversion of public morality in the province of Quebec, and I have no doubt the same thing has taken place in the other provinces. I also desire to add the following section:

Section 107d. It is prohibited to lease or let, as a place of assembly for an election committee or election meeting, any house or part of a house or place in which are retailed spirituous or fermented liquors, or in which food is ordinarily supplied for payment, or to make use of any such places for that purpose, under penalty of a fine of _____ dollars, and of an imprisonment of _____ months in default of payment.

Mr. CASGRAIN.

In certain districts people who run taverns insist upon a room being taken in the house in which the tavern is kept, for the purpose of holding committee meetings. Their object is simply to distribute liquor among those who attend the meeting of the committee, and it seems to me that this should be stopped too.

Mr. INGRAM. Does not the Act already provide that there shall be no treating by the candidates?

Mr. CASGRAIN. Of course.

Mr. INGRAM. There is no doubt that such a section would be a great hardship in some cases of country hotels. You are travelling around and meeting committees, and there is no place to meet committees except in hotels.

Mr. BERGERON. I think my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) has the best of intentions in making these amendments. I think that most of these are in the Quebec Act passed by my hon. friend when he was Attorney General of Quebec. I have seen how they work out in practice. Of course, I may be told that the law is there; I do not know whether there is any arrangement amongst the parties themselves, but, in the local by-elections and in the local elections of 1897, which were held under this Act, bar-rooms were opened the day before the day of nomination and the day after, and a man could get whisky anywhere in the places that I have been in my own riding. Of course this does not mean that it would not be a good thing to put such a provision on the statute-book, but I can assure my hon. friend from East Elgin that there will be no danger of what he is speaking about happening, because the hotels are always open the day before, the day of nomination, and the day after. The question is whether it would be better to have such a law on the statute-book and allow it to remain a dead letter or to have it on the statute-book and enforce it. In practice it did not seem to make any difference in the last elections in our province.

Mr. CASGRAIN. It is no reason to say that the law has been violated. I take issue with my hon. friend on this point. In the district of Quebec I know perfectly well that every tavern, every place of entertainment and every saloon was shut up on election day. I know that such is the case at places I visited myself.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They cannot sell anything within the limits on election day.

Mr. CASGRAIN. No, but I am making the law more stringent.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You are making it so that one man cannot treat another on the day before or the day after.