

made by the commissioners themselves, who after having gone through the whole voters' lists, then subdivided into the polling subdivision, 200 names each. I think that applies to the electoral districts of the city of Montreal.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The word used in the Bill is "the voting subdivision."

Mr. QUINN. If the Solicitor General is satisfied I am quite willing, but I thought it necessary to make the suggestion.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I sent for the Bill introduced last year, and the 28th section says: that where the polling division contains more than 200 qualified voters according to the voters' list, the returning officer shall provide separate polling divisions, for the names in alphabetical order. I think a provision in the present Bill similar to that will remove all the difficulties.

Mr. POWELL. I think it is better to have the territorial division of 200. In my own county the sheriff is a Liberal and I do not believe he is going to commit any fraud, but it would be better not to have the people aggregated together in one polling division. The election, I believe, would go on much more respectably if we had not the people huddled together.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I believe it would not be well to interfere with the local arrangement to the extent the hon. gentleman suggests. I have not seen any serious disorder occur to the extent that my hon. friend suggests, and if we divide those polling subdivisions it will interfere with the local arrangement. I think myself that it would be well to make the arrangement as provided in the former Bill.

Mr. BELL (Addington). I admire the very kind manner in which the hon. the Solicitor General has handled this Bill; but I wish to call his attention to the argument of the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. Bennett), that irregularities have occurred and may occur again unless the voters' lists are reprinted after the final revision by the judge. Notwithstanding all the law quoted by the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) and his long experience in municipal matters, yet it is beyond doubt or contradiction that the voters' lists are not completed when they leave the court of revision. As the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) drew your attention to the careless manner in which these voters' lists were handled after they left the court of revision to be revised by the judge. I have had some experience of that kind of carelessness. During the last local elections in my county, in one township there were sixty-six names left off the list, and they were put on by the judge. This led to considerable confusion

Mr. QUINN.

and difficulty. But I apprehend that there is no use of discussing this question here, because the answer comes back to us, if we are going to adopt the provincial voters' list, we have nothing to say about it. Now, I do think we are placed in a most humiliating position by handing over to the provinces the entire preparation and revision of the voters' list. If we have any grievances, there is no use of our mentioning them here, because the only answer we can expect is the whole question is under the jurisdiction of the provinces, therefore, I think we are only wasting time to continue this discussion.

Mr. WALLACE. I entirely disagree with the last statement of the hon. member for Addington (Mr. Bell). I think this is an opportune time, at any rate, to place our views on record. To me, this looks like a most humiliating proposition, and it places the Solicitor General in a most humiliating position. What is proposed? These gentlemen say we are going to adopt a new franchise law. What is it going to be? We will abolish the old one—that is the first thing. What is to take its place? The franchise laws of the provinces. They do not stop to inquire whether these are just laws, or whether they are suitable for our purposes in the Dominion Parliament. No such inquiry is made. We must simply swallow the whole thing. The Solicitor General has given a hasty examination of the Franchise Acts of the provinces, with whose laws he is not familiar; and he comes before us with a brief which has been put into his hands, and he has to defend everything in the Ontario list. If he cannot defend it, why does he come here to press it upon the Parliament of Canada? He cannot defend it, even with the assistance of the hon. member from Huron and the members from some other counties, because there are portions of it that cannot be defended. I say it is a humiliating position to have the Government and this Parliament placed in—that we are to adopt laws which the Solicitor General is so unfamiliar with. I presume—and it is no reflection upon him at all—that until a very short time ago he had not studied the election laws of the various provinces of this Dominion outside of his own province of Quebec; yet he gets up here and defends, and will have to defend, the whole of the Ontario law. We cannot, apparently, change it, because the next clause says that "the qualifications necessary to entitle any person to vote shall be those established by the laws of that province," and so on. We ask, what are the laws of the province of Ontario? What are the laws of the province of Nova Scotia? We must go it blind, and accept them. The province of Nova Scotia has passed a Franchise Act for that province. We do not know the circumstances or conditions of that province: we do not know the exigencies of the political parties there; and yet this