

proclamation of the voting places. The deputy returning officer in the city of Ottawa divided up his district the night before the election. How, then, could any elector in Ottawa know early in the morning where he was to vote?

Mr. LANDERKIN. At the nominations in Ontario, every polling place is announced in the hustings. Every place is to be put in the proclamation, and every elector can see exactly where he has to vote.

Mr. McINERNEY. All I know is that a gentleman belonging to this city has put in my hand a note contradicting that statement, and stating that the division was made by the returning officer the night before the election.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Nothing of the sort.

Mr. McINERNEY. I am satisfied that this is a fact. I know that several gentlemen came to the Russel House, and said that they could not find the poll where they had to vote, and I have mentioned the case of the ex-Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who told me that he travelled round several polls trying to find where his name was entered.

The PRIME MINISTER. He was not anxious to vote.

Mr. McINERNEY. The fact that he went to several places showed his anxiety to vote, and the fact that he appeared here in public meetings, showed his anxiety.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Perhaps he was not twenty-one years of age.

Mr. McINERNEY. Why, he has been in this House longer than that. If there is this difficulty in a city, how much greater difficulty must there be in a country district twenty or thirty miles in length. To tell a man that he shall go to the end of a parish to see if his name is on the list, and if it is not there, send him to the other end of the district, perhaps twenty miles distant, is an absurdity. The amendment proposed does not state that all the polls shall be in the one place, and even if it did, it proposes that an official nominee, the returning officer may, on the eve of an election, in the heat of a contest, divide the list. And that need not be printed, but be a written list. There is no obligation to have the list printed, and as a matter of fact they are not printed, unless at the expense of the candidate. This officer may divide the list to suit himself, and intentionally or unintentionally, leave a number of voters off in any one or more sections. How are you going to get the names he leaves off put on? The hon. gentleman will see what a dangerous power he is placing in the hands of these men. If the dividing of the list were left to the revisers in the province of New Brunswick, to be done by them in the month of Oc-

tober, when they make the lists up, and then be sent by them to the county clerk before the month of November, the work would be done more fairly. Their lists are posted subject to correction, and you can ask to have names put on or struck off. But I protest against a political nominee, such as a revising officer, being given the power of dividing the list in the heat of election, and leaving off names, intentionally or unintentionally, so that on the day of the election, when an elector finds his name has been left off, he has no means of having it put on and is deprived of his vote.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would like to point out to the hon. gentleman that the polling subdivisions are fixed by statute. The subdivided lists are not the authentic list, but the authentic list is that which is made by the reviser, and it is that which is subdivided. A man whose name is on the authentic list would have the right to vote, whether his name is on the subdivided list or not. The hon. gentleman knows that under a law in New Brunswick, the authentic list must be in the hands of the returning officer.

Mr. McINERNEY. How can four returning officers have the one list?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. You can have four authentic copies of the one list.

Mr. McINERNEY. I know more about the law in New Brunswick than does the hon. gentleman. It provides that there shall be only one list handed to the returning officer, and not several. He makes his copy of that list and puts it in the ballot box and gives it to the deputy returning officer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Can he not make three copies just as well as one?

Mr. McINERNEY. No, because he must divide the list up.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He need not divide it at all, but give three full copies.

Mr. McINERNEY. Well, I cannot understand how you can have four polling booths and have the list in every polling booth. Suppose these polls were ten miles apart.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. But they cannot be. What is the use of talking such nonsense?

Mr. McINERNEY. Does that amendment say so?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The hon. gentleman has never read it.

Mr. McINERNEY. Well, I heard the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) read it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Then, the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInerney) did not understand it.