

ments I shall propose when we reach that part of the Bill. The manner in which the accounts are kept by the general agent of the candidates to-day is loose; the accounts are not kept in such a manner that any one inspecting them can see whether corruption has taken place or not. I intend to ask the House to adopt provisions which will cause the accounts to be so kept that any one at a glance can see how much was contributed towards the election and how much the expenses have been. Under these amendments, the agent of the candidate must not only keep a daily account of the moneys he expends in carrying on the organization and in running the election, but he also will be obliged to keep an account of all moneys which he receives for the purpose of the organization of the election; and no money can be expended in the constituency which has not passed through the hands of the general agent, who keeps an account of these moneys. On the other side of the book, he enters the moneys which he has expended; and therefore, it will be seen the agent has to show a clean bill, he has to show that the money he has received and the money he has expended balance each other; and if he cannot show that, he is obliged to explain the difference. It will be seen that this is an effective mode of checking the custom that has prevailed of contributing large sums of money to the election by persons who are not in a position to be able to contribute this money in an honest and straightforward way. It will be seen by this that any moneys that come into the hands of the candidate's agent and are expended in the election, must be accounted for, and persons inspecting the accounts can see where the money comes from, and how it is expended.

I take from the Imperial Act another provision. I propose to establish for each county the maximum expenditure which will be allowed by the law, and also to designate specifically in the Act those persons that can be legally employed in carrying on or organizing an election. For instance, I say that in certain polls so many messengers, or so many secretaries may be employed, so many carters may be employed, and those are the only persons who can be employed legally in the election. Anybody who is employed in any other capacity is illegally employed, and the employer is guilty of a corrupt practice, and the person who allows himself to be so employed is guilty of a corrupt practice also.

Then, again, the amount which can be legally expended in any one constituency is fixed by law, the salaries of those persons are to be determined. For unforeseen expenses a certain amount is allowed, but there is a maximum fixed for each constituency, and the expenditure of any sum over and above that maximum is by itself an illegal payment and a corrupt act, for which those who have taken any part in it

are liable to punishment. These are in a general way the outlines of the amendments which I shall ask my hon. and learned friend the Solicitor General to accept when we come to those provisions of the Bill.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I am glad my hon. and learned friend has reduced my quantitative interest in this Bill, but, of course, I feel just as intense an interest in it as before. I understand that he does not intend in any way to interfere with the present election law in the North-west Territories. I congratulate him on his sober second thought in retiring from what was certainly a most untenable position, that of disfranchising the mounted police, of disfranchising the permanent corps, of disfranchising many of the very best citizens that we have.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin). I have carefully read the Bill introduced by the Solicitor General, and I am prepared to congratulate him on having embraced many new ideas that were not in the old Act. The government have now adopted the several franchises in force in the various provinces as the basis of representation in this House; and I venture to think that the hon. gentleman will find a great many difficulties when he comes to consider the various franchises of the provinces, many more perhaps than he foresees at the present time. We know that the Franchise Act passed in 1898 is largely embodied in this Bill, and when this Bill is passed you are partially taking into it the Franchise Acts of the different provinces. There are in the neighbourhood of some 66 amendments to the old election law, and I am satisfied there will be three times that number of amendments proposed to this Bill before it becomes law. Now, with respect to some changes the hon. gentleman has made, I congratulate him on abandoning section 7 with respect to the North-west; also, for paying more attention than has been paid in the old Act with respect to those who have become criminals by committing frauds in elections. I am glad to notice a provision for the employment of resident officers instead of strangers, as could be done under the old Act. Then there is the important question of marking ballots. Many hon. gentlemen know by experience that not only red, black and blue lead pencils have been used, but pen and ink have been used in marking ballots. This has been the subject of a good deal of controversy in the courts, and I am glad to note that the hon. gentleman has accepted the suggestion that no ballot marked otherwise than with a black lead pencil shall be called a legal ballot.

Now, with respect to the opening of the polls, I propose to move an amendment which shall be a direction to the officials to open the polls at 9 o'clock in the morning. I find that the hon. gentleman has amended