

present at a certain place for two consecutive hours in every day of eight days preceding the election for the purpose of enabling them to apply for certificates. The certificates referred to are certificates of the authority referred to act as agent. The difficulty that has arisen is that these have been used, as I am informed, for the purpose of enabling personation to be carried on. It is merely desired that those safeguards that seem to me reasonable shall be adopted in order that personation shall not be carried on, and that the persons representing both candidates shall have an equal opportunity of applying for these certificates.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Perhaps if my hon. friend will renew his question to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock, in the interval I will endeavour to look over the Bill and see what can be done.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Perhaps in the meantime the hon. gentleman will look over both Bills, Nos. 117 and 118.

Mr. MONK. In regard to the province of Quebec, the Minister of Justice said there were four counties out of which he constitutes two counties for federal purposes. Is he quite sure of that?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes.

Mr. MONK. As I read the last election law of Quebec, Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands form two separate constituencies, but Chicoutimi and Saguenay are one constituency. It has been suggested to me from the district of Quebec, by people who are more competent than I am and perhaps as competent as my hon. friend and as conversant with the geography of that interesting district, that it is not at all impossible to have the elections at the same time in those two large constituencies if authority were given by statute to the returning officer to make his proclamation and to obtain the results of the election by telegraph.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. How would he send his ballot boxes?

Mr. MONK. He can do that before. The objection pointed out to me was made on behalf of the Magdalen Islands, and my hon. friend will understand it. We have communication with the north shore of the St. Lawrence, and in the Magdalen Islands we have communication by telegraph. But the peculiarity of the Magdalen Islands is that it is impossible to cross over to them between the 15th of December and the 20th of May, and provision has to be made for such a contingency. The consequence is, for instance, that if we had an election this fall, as some people insinuate we may have, the Magdalen Islands in the county of Gaspé would not be represented in the next session of this parliament until after the 20th of May.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It may not.

Mr. MONK. It might not be, as my hon. friend says, and possibly it might be. But what was represented to me by my friends in the district of Quebec was that such a regrettable want of representation might be obviated by giving the returning officer power in those districts to act by means of telegraphic communication.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. That suggestion must have come from Quebec, and not elsewhere.

Mr. MONK. The representation I am making on behalf of these people is a serious one. There is no doubt that an amendment could easily be made giving him that power. There would be then no possible contingency in which the county of Gaspé would not have its duly elected representative, even between the period from the 15th of December and the 20th of May. I am not prepared with an amendment, but my hon. friend I think could easily prepare one which would enable us to have the elections in the province of Quebec all over at the same time.

Mr. CHARLES MARCIL. I undertook a few moments ago to give some explanations in regard to the county of Gaspé, where I had the honour of being a candidate some eight years ago. The county of Gaspé in the summer time is much easier of access than it is in winter. In summer we have navigation on both shores, we have navigation also to the Magdalen Islands; but in the winter time this disappears entirely; and we have no railways. The first parish in the county of Gaspé is forty miles from the nearest railroad station, and the mainland is 320 miles long. There used to be in the old Election Act a provision as regards the Magdalen Islands that if the election was held in the winter time the proclamation could be cabled over to the islands and the deputy returning officer on the island was authorized to prepare with a pen the proclamation necessary to bring on that election and the ballots as well. The first difficulty that would exist between the nomination and the voting would be this, that as soon as the candidates are nominated the returning officer must go to Quebec or send to Quebec to have the ballots printed as there is no French printing office nearer than Quebec.

There may be a local printing office in Rimouski and perhaps another at Rivière du Loup but generally the ballots are printed at Quebec. Before the ballots are returned to Perce there is generally a lapse of three or four days. Then the returning officer must cover the whole area of 320 miles which lies between Cap Chat and Newport. I had the pleasure of covering that district on snowshoes or rowing in an open boat in March of 1897. It took me eight