

as those living in the urban municipalities. That difficulty having been overcome by the incorporating of section 63 in this Act—as I understand it is in force during the time of taking the referendum—removes one of the doubts I had in mind. One has to refer to the interpretation to find out what is meant by “urban polling division”:

“Urban polling division” means a polling division which is wholly or partly contained within places having a population of more than one thousand persons and which places are under the provincial laws—cities, towns or incorporated villages.

There are many villages in the province of Ontario that have not a population of 1,000, so they will come under section 63, and persons not on the list will have an opportunity of coming forward and voting in the same way as people living in the country. It strikes me that if section 63 is utilized in that way no one has reason to complain—all of the people in the province who desire to vote will have an opportunity of doing so. If we do adopt the course of preparing a new list, it will mean, as the leader of the Government has stated, an expenditure of a very considerable sum of money, and in the end we would only attain the same object as the Bill will attain. Such being the case, and the expense being wholly unnecessary, I think the course proposed is the very best one under the circumstances.

Paragraphs 11 to 20 referred to in the Bill provide that the machinery of the Dominion Election Act shall be put in force, and under rule 11 of section 32 the county judges in the various counties of the province will be the chief revising officers. The rules of that Act, as they will be applied under the proposed Act, provide all the remedy that is necessary; so from that standpoint and from the standpoint of giving every person an opportunity of voting, nothing can be said against the course which it is now proposed to adopt. Some of the temperance people in the province of Ontario who have had a good deal to do with matters of this kind are satisfied with the proposed legislation; another branch are not satisfied; so it would be impossible to satisfy both parties.

It has been stated by the honourable member for Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt) that the Ontario Government should be consulted before we pass this Act. It is the Ontario Government which has asked this Parliament to submit a referendum to the voters of the province of Ontario. You will all remember that it is the Ontario

Hon. Mr. PROUDFOOT.

Legislature that has set this law in motion. It asked us to bring about a referendum; its responsibility commenced and ended with the passage of the necessary provincial Act asking us to bring this vote about. That being so, I do not see what good purpose can be served by submitting the Act to the Ontario Government. If any good object could be attained in that way, I should be quite willing to see the legislation submitted to them. If we submit it to them they may submit it to the temperance association and cause all kinds of trouble. The legislation as it stands will give, as I have said before, a full opportunity for everyone to vote, and I think that is all we are interested in.

Paragraph b was agreed to.

Paragraph c was agreed to.

On paragraph d—residence qualification:

Hon. Mr. PROUDFOOT: I would suggest that a few words be added to this paragraph. Section 29 refers to the taking of an oath, and the form of oath is provided for, and I think that we should add to it so that it would read:

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph c of subsection 1 of section 29, or amendments thereto.

That would cover clause d that we are adding. The form of oath as given simply covers section 29 of the Act, and for the purpose of removing any doubts I suggest this amendment.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: It does not occur to me that it is at all necessary. If the section has been amended, it is referred to as amended.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I think that is all right.

Paragraph d was agreed to.

Paragraph e was agreed to.

On the preamble:

Hon. W. B. ROSS: I would like to suggest an additional paragraph, which will be paragraph f. I am doing it at the instance of the honourable member from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Nicholls). He has pointed out that it would be a matter of importance to know in a matter like this how many male voters there are and how many female voters, and he asked me to make some suggestion as to the best way of ascertaining that fact.

I think there must be more reasons than one why it would be interesting to have this