

man inquired, "But, has he had his convention?" and the reply was: "He is not going to have a convention; he is a candidate." Then this gentleman said: "What does he need the money for, if he is not going to have a convention?" Hon. gentlemen who are asking for registration may not find it so convenient when they have the registration. I would just about as soon have an election as a registration. One of the difficulties is that the lists are left at loose ends in large towns, and men pay no attention and make no effort to get on the list until the time arrives, and then there is a great struggle to get on the list. Is this not the situation to-day? If there had been no legislation passed in the province of Ontario, and the law stood as it has been for many years, and we were holding an election, now or within two or three months from now, would we not use identically the same lists that would be used under this Act, except for the new conditions? So that the conditions are unchanged. The lists of Ontario have not been finally revised, and would not be revised, under the old conditions probably, until December. An election held before December would have been held on the list of 1916, just as this election will be held. So that the difficulties outlined by hon. gentlemen are the difficulties which would have arisen had the law not been changed in Ontario, no matter when you have the election.

Mr. GLASS: In Ontario, where elections have been held when the lists were not completely revised, the lists were used in the townships in which they had been revised. The hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Steele) tells me, not for Dominion elections. I am not talking about that, but I know in certain townships within my own riding, where the lists have been revised within 60 days, which is necessary in order that they may be used, the lists of that current year were used, whereas in the other townships the lists of the previous year were used.

Mr. GRAHAM: Not many of them are revised at the present time.

Mr. GLASS: Some of them were revised in the first month.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I desire to refer the hon. member for East Middlesex (Mr. Glass) to sections 151 and 152 of the Dominion Elections Act, which provide for residential voting. They are repealed in this Act, consequently the list stands just

as it stood for each polling division in Ontario. Though a man may have moved into another division, he still has his vote in the old division.

Mr. NESBITT: Where he is on the list?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Mr. ROSS: That is not fair. Supposing a man had not been on the list any place, and he moves into another riding, the enumerator has not power to put him on. He has only power to put females on.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is all.

Mr. ROSS: I have not been influenced by anything said by the hon. member for Haldimand, or the hon. member who has just spoken. It seems to me that I am absolutely right in regard to the clerk doing the work which the hon. gentlemen propose that the enumerator shall do, and for many reasons. This Government has made a great many sanctimonious protestations that it wants to be absolutely fair, and not partisan in regard to the soldiers' vote and in regard to this Act, and the minister says he is willing to consider amendments. Let me make a suggestion with regard to these clerks as far as Ontario is concerned. The voters' lists of 1916 are to be used in Ontario. How will they prepare the lists? The assessor prepares his assessment roll, and hands it to the clerk. The clerk copies it off, prepares his voters' list, and passes it on, and that voters' list is revised by the judge. The clerk in each municipality has more thorough knowledge in regard to the lists than any other man in the township. He has gone over the lists of appeals made by the various parties before the judge and court of revision. Every soldier, whether across the seas or at home, appears in that list, and the clerk knows who each soldier is. The consequence is that, if we appoint the clerk of the county instead of the enumerator, he is necessarily seized of the names of the soldiers, and he knows who they are. On account of the prominence of the county clerk, in my part of the country he is absolutely acquainted with the township, and all the people in it, and he consequently knows who the soldiers and the soldiers' wives and mothers are. That does away with the objection of the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. W. H. Bennett). The clerk does not require to go through the township to find out who the women are, because he knows them on his own knowledge, and the soldiers are already on the list.