

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). No doubt, the point mentioned by the hon. member for Westmoreland was overlooked in the preparation of the Bill. Last year, a similar Bill was presented to the House, and it contained a provision whereby the difficulty would be overcome. I had not the opportunity of examining the Bill this year before it was presented; but, on referring to the Bill of last year, it will be found that arrangements were made for dividing the list of voters into three divisions, alphabetically, or for the erection of separate booths. I will look up the Bill of last year, and will consult with the Solicitor General.

Mr. **POWELL**. The present Minister of Railways was Attorney General of New Brunswick at the time the Act was passed. He made a suggestion that worked very well in the local elections, but it would not work here. It was, that two or more ballot-boxes should be provided in each case. The system worked very well in Westmoreland, where there are some large polling divisions in which there were two or three ballot-boxes, and where the election list was divided alphabetically. But it would not work under the proposed Dominion law.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. What would be the objection?

Mr. **POWELL**. It could not be carried out, unless the suggestions of the Minister of Railways were carried out and separate booths provided. Then, provision would have to be made, authorizing the returning officer, or deputy returning officer, to divide up the polling lists. I desire to call attention to another matter, which is a very serious one. At present, in most parts of the province, in fact throughout the province, Dominion elections are conducted in a very orderly manner, and a stranger would scarcely know that an election was going on. Under our local law, in districts where many people come together on election day, it is rather a disreputable day by times.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I think that remark should be confined to the south-eastern part of the province.

Mr. **POWELL**. I have no doubt that in the county represented by the hon. gentleman the population are very pious and orderly; but that is neither here nor there. Under the election law of the Mackenzie Government, the revising officer took the franchise list and divided it up, so that in no polling district there were more than 200 voters. The result was, that perfect quiet and order were maintained. New Brunswick occupies an exceptional position. We have a different mode of voting from that adopted by the Dominion, and that province and Prince Edward Island are exceptional in that regard.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. I suggest that this matter be left over, and an amendment be carefully drawn and submitted at a subsequent sitting.

Mr. **QUINN**. I should like to present the point as to whether a poll-book of a polling subdivision can be called under this Act an official list or a list of voters. Under our law in the province of Quebec, an official list is one certified by commissioners who have examined it. No portion of it is official until it receives a certain certificate. Under this provision, it would not be an official list.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. By subsection "d." the expression "voters' list" or "list of voters" includes any poll-book or official list of persons entitled to vote at a provincial election. In the province of Quebec, we have two divisions as to lists, city and rural. In the cities, such as Quebec, and Montreal, there are commissioners, and their certificate is put on the list, and it is obtained from the chairman of the revising board by the revising officer, when an election comes on. That is called, under our law, a voters' list. The difficulty is as regards the word poll-book, which we inserted in order to meet the law of Ontario. Under the Ontario law, a voters' list is entirely different from a poll-book. The poll-book is simply a record that is kept of the votes as they are polled.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. No, no.

Mr. **QUINN**. That is hardly correct.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. When I speak of the law in Ontario I am happy to receive information from gentlemen from that province. I refer now to paragraph 33 of the Ontario Elections Act. I see there that when an election comes on, the returning officer obtains from the clerk of the peace for the county, the voters' lists and from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery he obtains the poll book. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery does not at all supply the voters' lists.

Mr. **QUINN**. Apply that to Quebec.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. As far as Quebec is concerned the poll-book comes to the clerk at the time of the election, and is absolutely blank without a name in it, and there he records the name according to the votes registered. No matter how we look upon it the question is whether or not this paragraph is sufficient for the purpose intended. What we mean is, that the voters' list as used under this Act shall include that official list. It seems that it is sufficient to cover it. I am not wedded to the change; I suggest it because I think it will improve the phraseology of the clause.

Mr. **QUINN**. I must confess that I am rusty on the law as regards subdivisions. My recollection is that the subdivisions were