

lishes it, in his proclamation, before the election day.

Mr. McINERNEY. That is not in the amendment.

The PRIME MINISTER. That will be provided for. With regard to the names, the amendment that has been prepared by my colleague, the hon. Minister of Railways, provides that the list shall be made up in such a way that the voters whose names are, for example, from A to K or from M to R would vote at such or such a place, so that there is no necessity of subdividing the list to avoid possible errors. What is done—I have seen it in my own province—is to give the returning officer as many copies of the whole list as there are polling stations, and it can be seen exactly where a man is to vote. My hon. friend the Solicitor General will, I am sure, see that these points are provided for.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I want to say to the leader of the Opposition that by subsection "b" it is provided that "the polling subdivisions shall be those established by or under the laws of that province for the purposes of provincial elections." In the province of Ontario, for instance, the polling subdivisions are fixed long in advance by the municipal authorities, not by the returning officer at all. In the province of Quebec the polling subdivisions are also established by the municipal authorities. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick they are fixed by statute, of course long in advance of any election. In Manitoba and British Columbia they are fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The only case in which the returning officer can be called upon the scene at all is such a case as may occur in the province of New Brunswick. In all the other provinces I venture to say that the limit of voters in any subdivision is 200; but in the province of New Brunswick it may happen, because of the polling subdivisions being fixed by statute, that there may be 400 or 500 or 600 voters in a polling subdivision.

Mr. McINERNEY. Or 900.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Or 900; and in that case we provide that the returning officer shall subdivide the list alphabetically, so that there will be three polling booths at the same place, 300 voters being assigned to each polling booth. The function of the returning officer does not consist in subdividing the polling subdivisions, but in arranging the list alphabetically; and that would apply exclusively to the case pointed out by the hon. member for Kent as possible to occur in New Brunswick, and nowhere else. The returning officer has absolutely nothing to do with fixing the limits of the polling subdivision.

Mr. CLANCY. Is it provided for in the unorganized districts of the province of Ontario?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have provided for them also.

Mr. CLANCY. The returning officer has power to fix the polling subdivisions there.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. He will find that in the unorganized territory there are no polling subdivisions under the provincial statute, but polling places; and the only duty of the revising officer is to fix the territorial area within which the voters will be found to come to each polling place.

Mr. CLANCY. That is equivalent after all to the power of fixing the limits of the divisions. It is true, the polling divisions are not fixed by statute, but they may be fixed by the will of the returning officer.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I ask my hon. friend to look at section 61 of the Ontario Election Act, where he will find it provided that in the unorganized territory a poll shall be opened and held at certain places specified. These places are fixed by the statute, not by the returning officer.

Mr. McINERNEY. I do not think that the remark that fell from the Prime Minister will at all do away with the difficulty in this case. The right hon. gentleman dealt with a number of things which it would be more satisfactory to find in the amendment which the Solicitor General read; but they are not there. He meets some objections if the amendment he spoke of were proposed, but the amendment prepared by the hon. Minister of Railways and put in the hands of the Solicitor General, to meet the case of New Brunswick, does not meet it. Does the amendment which the Solicitor General read to the House and which we may have proposed here—but we have no declaration that it is to be proposed at all—state that all these polling booths shall be in the one place in the district. It states nothing of the kind; and in so far as the province of Ontario is concerned, we have many instances of how the law worked in the late election in the city of Ottawa. Why, at that election some of the leading citizens of this city came to me and said they had travelled from one poll to another looking for their names until they got tired and disgusted, and did not believe they would vote at all. The ex-Minister of Marine (Mr. Costigan) told me that he had been to several polls on that day without success, and did not know that he was bound to go round the city in order to find where his name was entered. If there is such difficulty in a city, how great must be the difficulty in a country place?

Mr. LANDERKIN. The list is hung up in specified central public places. Any gentleman can look at that list and find where he has to vote.

Mr. McINERNEY. I understand that in the local election in Ontario there is no