

to the voters' list as provided by section 63 of this Act; and subject also to the right of any person resident in a rural polling division to apply in person to the revising officer of an urban polling division in the same electoral district, or if there be no urban polling division in such electoral district, to the nearest revising officer in another electoral district, to have his name added to the voters' list for such rural polling division.

"If under the laws of any province, provision is not made for the enrolment of female voters, or no provincial voters' lists exist which are available for the purposes of a Dominion election under the provisions of section 1 of section 32 of this Act."

The remainder of the section shall be followed out as it stands in the Act. The effect is to leave the law to apply generally, absolutely as it stands this amendment applying only in the provinces to which its special application appears from the face of it.

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Acting Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the amendment which my hon. friend has just moved was so thoroughly discussed in the committee stage of this Bill that one cannot offer anything to the House now unless by way repetition. I failed to hear anything in the remarks of my hon. friend upon this subject which was not repetition. But I may be permitted a few words to state not only the Government's position but the general scope of this legislation and the principle upon which it was prepared. We took as our model the system of the province of Saskatchewan where they have no voters' list unless a provincial election is called. There they adopt the system in urban municipalities of registration and in rural municipalities of enumeration. From experience in that province, from all inquiries that have been made in regard to the operation of the Act, we are inclined to think that the Saskatchewan system has given satisfaction to all political parties. We adopted it as the model for the Dominion measure seeking as far as possible to have a uniform election law which would appertain in every province of Canada. We built upon that model, but as the matter progressed we found that there were election laws which were distinctly not uniform. We found in the Quebec law some provisions which were not included in the Ontario law. In Nova Scotia, it was represented, the present Nova Scotia election machinery was perfect. So in other provinces; but we had to determine upon some principle and we kept as closely as we could to the principle

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

upon which we have started, namely, the Saskatchewan system which was registration in the cities, and enumeration, if you so call it, in the country. Well, my hon. friend would like, I have no doubt, the lists of the province of Ontario, but he has failed to point out that those lists to which he refers are not provincial lists in any sense of the word; they are municipal lists, lists prepared for municipal purposes, lists of the ratepayers entitled to vote at municipal elections. That is what he asks us to accept. These lists are not used for provincial purposes in the province of Ontario until they are added to by a county judge and a board with which he surrounds himself under the provisions of the Ontario Act. But we have met my hon. friend more than half way. We have gone so far as to say that while in Ontario, under your present law, you have no provincial voters' lists, and will not have until a provincial election looms up, we have gone so far as to say we will take the lists in course of preparation, provided they have gone to the point of revision by a judge, with power to add to or take from them for the purpose of our Dominion franchise and Dominion election. Now could a fairer offer be made? We have made it, we have agreed to it, and we have amended the Bill in that way.

We could not accede to my hon. friend's proposal in regard to Nova Scotia. Whether it is truly stated or not, I do not know, but I do know that in regard to the provincial lists in Nova Scotia, there is a deep-rooted conviction on this side of the House that they are not as non-partisan as hon. members opposite are inclined to believe. We could not accept them, but we apply in Nova Scotia the same method and the same principle that we have applied throughout all the other provinces of Canada. In any province, if you have a provincial list not more than two years old, we accept it as the basis for Dominion purposes with power to add to or to take from. My hon. friend from Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau) was reasonable. He said: Make the two-year limitation and I am satisfied. And I assume that he spoke for the province of Quebec. I remarked then that no member from that province objected. The objection has come from where? From Ontario and Nova Scotia solely, in regard to this clause.

Now my hon. friend says: I am going to move the very amendment which the minister brought into this House. Well, we did have a conference, as the House knows. It was not a conference sought by the Government but one to try and meet the earnest pleas and solicitations of hon. mem-