

214. The returning officer shall also transmit to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, the writ, with his return, the stamp furnished him for stamping the ballot papers, and all the ballot papers including those unused, the original statements of the several deputy returning officers, together with the lists of voters and the poll books used in the several polling divisions, and all other lists and documents used or furnished for the election, or which have been transmitted to him by the deputy returning officers.

That section provides that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall keep those lists.

Mr. NESBITT: That is in the present Act?

Mr. MEIGHEN: In the Act as it stands now, and as it will stand. Section 218 provides:

218. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, retain in his possession the papers transmitted to him by any returning officer, with the return, for at least one year, if the election is not contested during that time, and, if the election is contested, then for one year after the termination of such contestation.

So this Act will be applicable in the event of an election within one year.

Mr. MARCIL: Will the soldiers on the other side vote in that by-election?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, the Military Voters' Act is not applicable.

The next subject is with regard to relatives of members of the Allied armies. I cannot add to what I said yesterday on this point. I think it would open the door to the gravest abuses. While I freely admit there are some whom it would be in the public interest to admit to the franchise, still we cannot distinguish between Allies in the war. We are very anxious to avoid distinguishing, and the difficulty in drawing the line is so great that I think it is better to leave the Bill as it is in that regard.

Mr. GRAHAM: What about the ten days?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I will deal with that in a minute. The hon. member for Saskatoon urged very strongly that we should extend the time backwards, that is, make the dates earlier upon which the voters' lists should be posted by the enumerators in the polling division, also the time within which the enumerator would add to or strike from the voters' list after that. Under the Bill as introduced, the first time was ten days, and the last three days before the election. In the former Acts it was eight days and two days. After a thorough review of the

[Mr. Meighen.]

Act I prepared amendments which will have the effect of making the dates twelve and five, instead of ten and three. The enumerator will have to post his lists twelve days before the election, and the lists must be complete, so far as the enumerator makes them, five days before the election.

Mr. C. A. WILSON: 'Why not make it fifteen?

Mr. MEIGHEN: We cannot.

Mr. NESBITT: Does that refer to Ontario as well?

Mr. MEIGHEN: It refers to Ontario as well, in so far as the enumerator makes the lists in Ontario.

Mr. NESBITT: Twelve days before the elections?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Mr. NESBITT: And, five days to appeal?

Mr. MEIGHEN: He posts the lists twelve days before the election. He is supposed to have them as complete as he can get them. Until five days before the election he sits for two hours each day, and he is obliged, if any one convinces him that the list so posted is wrong, to add to it or to take off a name that he deems should be taken off, but after five days before the election he cannot do that. All he can do is to give a man a certificate on election day which enables him to cast his vote, or to give him a refusal which enables him to tender his vote, which vote is placed in an envelope and deposited in the ballot box.

Mr. NESBITT: If the minister looks at paragraph 65 (a) of the Act, clause 3, line 34, he will see what I mean:

If the enumerator refuses or omits to enter upon the list the name of any person the applicant may, in person or in the case of a qualified person who may be absent from the polling division at the time of the enumeration, an elector in the polling division acting on such absent person's behalf, may within three days after the posting up by the enumerator of such list, appeal to such Board.

That is what I asked my hon. friend about last night. I want that extended to five days.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I will try and look into that during the afternoon. That is in the province of Ontario?

Mr. NESBITT: In the cities.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That applies to the cities only?