

do not know of any failure on the part of a returning officer to promptly return deposits after results of the polls have been declared. There may be a reason for the change, but I submit that under the old arrangement it is much more convenient, and the return of the money was much more expeditious than is likely to be the case if the money is deposited with the Auditor General. Any one who has had experience of getting an account adjusted by the Auditor General's Department knows that he must consider himself exceedingly lucky to get it settled within twelve months and sometimes within two years.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is no necessity for any delay in a case of this kind. The Auditor General has no accounts to adjust or investigate, he has simply to return the deposits.

Mr. SEXSMITH: Would the minister so amend the clause that the Auditor General may be required to return the deposits within a certain time after the election results are declared?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I think he will return them in due time.

Mr. DENIS: Section 30 provides that any votes given at an election for any other candidate than those nominated in the manner provided by this Act shall be null and void. I fail to see how it is possible for an elector to give his vote to any other person than a candidate, because only the names of the candidates appear on the ballot.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I have seen the names of candidates written on ballots.

Mr. DENIS: Other than those appearing on the ballot?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes, I have seen them written on.

Section agreed to.

On section 42—postponement of nomination day upon unforeseen event or death of candidate:

Mr. DENIS: In the case of the death of a candidate why should not the Chief Electoral Officer fix another day for nomination upon the report made to him by the returning officer? Is the matter not serious enough to be left to the Chief Electoral Officer?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The returning officer is on the ground; he knows the situation, and he makes a special report to the Chief Elec-

[Mr. Glass.]

toral Officer. If the returning officer is inclined to do wrong, or the time is too short, or he is not able to give notice as laid down in this section, his attention will at once be directed to the matter by the Chief Electoral Officer, who will be an expert on elections. Last autumn a candidate in North Ontario died after being nominated and before the close of the polls. We had no Chief Electoral Officer at that time, but we had a Dominion Returning Officer. The local returning officer made all arrangements, fixed a new day for nomination, got out a new proclamation, and the election went on in due course.

Section agreed to.

On section 43—withdrawal of candidates:

Mr. MICHAUD: I understand that a candidate who withdraws between nomination and polling day loses his deposit.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes.

Mr. DENIS: Is the word "publishes" in subsection 3 comprehensive enough? I would suggest that the clause read "publishes or otherwise makes public".

Mr. GUTHRIE: In English the meaning of the word "publish" is "to make public".

Section agreed to.

On section 45—further duty of returning officer:

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is a clerical error in line 33; the words "and enumerators" should be struck out. There are no enumerators under this Act.

Mr. ROSS: I should think that more than two days before polling day should be allowed within which the returning officer shall furnish lists of deputy returning officers and enumerators.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That is the old rule. Under the old system you had the right to inspect the list two days before election; now you are furnished with a list. All registrars are to be selected out of the polling subdivisions.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The minister says that there are no enumerators under this Act. Do not the registrars perform the service which was performed by the enumerators under previous legislation?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The registrars do the work formerly carried out by enumerators. Throughout the Bill the technical term used is "registrar".