

tection of all parties, some finality should be given to this list a certain number of days before the polling takes place.

Mr. SIFTON. My hon. friend's information is that names are put on the lists without any evidence of qualification?

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes. That is my information, and I have got it from very respectable people whose word I cannot doubt, that men were brought up on election day while the voting was going on, and without any evidence whatever as to their qualification, they were admitted as voters and they cast their vote—admitted by the poll clerk under the direction of the deputy returning officer.

Mr. SIFTON. Without a declaration?

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes, without a declaration. I may tell my hon. friend that the statute does not require it. The enumerator is not there at the polling booth, and under section 46, it is open to anybody who wants to stretch the wording of the law to do exactly what it is alleged has been done during the election, because it says that the poll clerk shall make such additions, alterations and erasures in the voters' list and such entries in the poll book as the deputy returning officer directs him to make. The hon. gentleman will see that this law opens the door wide to fraud. Now, what I propose to do by the Bill before the House is simply to say that a certain number of days before polling day the lists shall be finally compiled—say two or three days, it doesn't matter very much except for distance.

I am not sufficiently familiar with the country to say what number of days would be sufficient, but it seems to me that each party should be on an equal footing and this list so prepared, should be open to the inspection of everybody so that any person complaining that his name is not on the list or that the list contains the name of any man who has not a right to vote, should be able to go to the enumerator and have the list corrected. But this should be done a certain number of days before polling day, so that no one should be surprised and that on polling day especially, no new names should be added to the list. These are the principal provisions of the Bill submitted to the House. There are other sections also which are not quite so important, for instance I am of the opinion that the discretion vested in the Governor in Council as to the fixing of the date for the election in the Yukon Territory should be abridged, and that a certain limit should be fixed to the time within which the election may be brought on.

Mr. SIFTON. The attention of the government has been drawn to the fact that the Act respecting representation in the Northwest Territories, which was largely modelled

upon the old Northwest Territories Representation Act, is in some respects not adapted to the requirements of the country and is unnecessarily cumbersome and expensive in its operation, and it is the intention of the government to introduce a Bill during this session for the purpose of modifying the provisions of the Bill in some respects. Our attention has not been drawn to the fact that any allegation has been made of such an abuse as that of which my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) complains, but there could be no possible objection to considering carefully what he has said in reference to it and the amendment which he has proposed. Then if it seems desirable to incorporate these amendments in the government Bill, we could do so when the Bill comes up, and if we should differ from my hon. friend, he would then have an opportunity of moving his amendments. I would therefore move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I would like my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) to tell me whether he has considered the question as to whether the attestation of the list has to be made forty-eight hours before polling, because really, I must confess to my hon. friend I am entirely at sea.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes. There is one provision of the Act which says it should be, but there is another which says the list can be altered on polling day.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Which is the last?

Mr. CASGRAIN. They are in the same statute, but the one I have mentioned last is the last.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I was under the impression that the list has to be closed forty-eight hours before polling.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The difficulty is that there are two inconsistent provisions in the statute, the provision to which the hon. the Minister of Justice refers and another which is inconsistent with it and upon which action was taken in the recent election. I may say, not only with regard to this, but with regard to the Bill we were discussing a moment ago, that similar representations to those which my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) says have come to him, have been made to me in very emphatic terms, not only about the possibility, but the performance at elections in the Northwest Territories and in the Yukon.

Motion (Mr. Sifton) agreed to, and debate adjourned.

CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. B. B. LAW (Yarmouth) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 119) to amend the Canada Temperance Act.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I would ask my hon. friend to allow this matter to stand. I have not had an opportunity of looking into this