

provide rigid safeguards as in a provincial general election, he will have to exercise the powers of amendment allowed by section 17 in wholesale fashion.

Under the Provincial Elections Act elaborate machinery is provided for preparing voters' lists, which must be revised by a court of revision, the decision of which tribunal can in turn be appealed from. No one can vote unless he is duly registered as an elector. The right to vote does not exist unless the name of the voter is on the lists.

Under Mr. Bowser's Soldiers' Voting Act voters' lists are not even consulted and have no status.

Under the Provincial Elections Act the returning officer proclaims nomination day eight days in advance, and in the same proclamation fixes the date of election two weeks later. All polls in a district must be held on the same day. If a mistake is made in the proclamation, a fortnight's notice of a new election day must be given.

Under the Soldiers' Voting Act the agent-general must give notice of a day "not later than" the date fixed for the elections in the province (Sept. 14) when he will begin to receive votes. As nomination day is August 3, the soldiers' voting may therefore begin on August 4 and continue to September 14. No length of notice is prescribed. It may be ten minutes or ten days, just as Mr. Welsh thinks will suit the exigencies of the case.

Under the Provincial Elections Act the returning officer appoints an elections clerk, who takes a prescribed oath. Similarly he or his deputy appoints a poll clerk who takes a prescribed oath. Persons objected to must take an oath. The deputy returning officer must swear anyone he suspects of fraud.

Under the recent Bowser Act presiding officers and their deputies must be sworn to faithfully perform their duties, but none of the "other officers" to be appointed under section 4 need be sworn. There is no provision for objecting to a voter, no

matter what reason might be assigned for opposing his vote.

Under the Provincial Elections Act electors retire to curtained off compartments in polling booths and mark their ballots where they can be safe from observation. Under the Bowser Act no such secrecy is afforded.

Under the Provincial Act ballots must be printed in books, with numbers corresponding to ballots and counterfoils, and must be officially initialed before they can be used.

Under Mr. Bowser's new Act none of these precautions are necessary.

Under the Provincial Elections Act (sections 70-4) any person authorized in writing may act as agent of a candidate during all stages of an election. In the absence of an agent for an absent candidate, any elector may at any time during the election declare himself agent and act as such.

Under Mr. Bowser's Act by which he says he intended to provide the same "rigid safeguards" there is no provision for an agent or scrutineer of any kind until all the voting has been completed and Sir Richard McBride (with the assistance of Mr. Welsh) begins to count up the results of the vote.

Under the Provincial Elections Act all ballots and documents in connection with the election must be carefully preserved so that they can be examined on election petitions, returns, election trials, or prosecutions under the Elections Act.

The Bowser legislation provides this remarkable "safeguard," that if any bag or receptacle of ballots "appears to have been opened," the bag or receptacle "shall not be opened or the contents thereof examined." Such bags or receptacles, in fact, must never be opened, but "when the other papers are destroyed the whole of such unopened bags, receptacles and envelopes shall be destroyed unopened." This provision obviously opens the door to unlimited fraud. Any bag of ballots which may be considered unfavorable to the government has only to "appear to have been opened," in order that it may never be opened, and its contents will