

placed upon the statute book it would be incumbent upon the Dominion Government to prepare new lists upon which the vote would be taken. Those new lists would cost this country, I am informed, at least \$350,000. The Government very naturally is opposed to the preparation of new lists; we regard them as unnecessary. Although a demand has been made on the part of a certain section of the voters in Ontario that the Government, at its own expense, prepare new lists, we have refused to do so. We have said that substantial justice can be done and the entire vote recorded under the machinery we have now before us, in the manner I have already indicated. I therefore move the adoption of paragraph a.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: I want to renew the question which I put to my honourable friend yesterday and which he has not answered—whether or not this Bill has been submitted to the Ontario Government, who are responsible for the carrying out of the plebiscite or referendum, or is this legislation proposed by the Government simply on its own initiative, without consultation with the Ontario authorities?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I shall answer my honourable friend no. The Ontario Government has nothing to say upon the subject except to make such representations as it may desire. The Dominion Government, of course, is only too glad to receive any representations which may be made, and to give them every consideration; but this is a duty which is exclusively cast upon the Dominion Government. We would be only too glad if the Ontario Government or any other provincial Government would assume the responsibility of preparing the lists and of carrying out the plebiscites. I may say, and I say it unhesitatingly, that I think Parliament made a mistake in the first place in assuming the expense incident to the call of any provincial Government to submit these plebiscites, and if the matter again came before Parliament my own disposition would be against it. I do not think this is an expenditure which should be saddled upon the Dominion Government, but we have already assumed the responsibility under the statute and of course we are bound by it. Hence, as it is a matter exclusively within the authority of the Dominion Government, we have not submitted this legislation to the Ontario Government.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: My honourable friend says, quite properly, I think, that they would welcome any representations

from the Ontario Government in regard to this; but if we pass the Bill and then ask them for representations or suggestions, it is a case of mustard after dinner. Now would be the time to ask if they have any representations to make. I quite agree that this is an expenditure which this Parliament should not have assumed; we have no right to meddle with the thing at all. The referendum is a matter to be decided wholly and exclusively by the people of the province, and why we should have anything to do with the preparing of the lists is something that I cannot understand and would be opposed to. But there is a demand from the Ontario Government to this Parliament to pass legislation in order to enable the province to have this referendum, and I submit again that it would be quite in order for this Government, before submitting the legislation to Parliament, to consult with the Ontario Government in order to ascertain whether the legislation is to their liking. What is the good of passing a Bill with which they may find fault? It seems to me that if any representations are to be asked, they should be asked before we pass the Bill.

Paragraph a was agreed to.

On paragraph b—revision:

Hon Mr. PROUDFOOT: Honourable gentlemen will see that section 63 of the Dominion Elections Act is introduced, which gives an opportunity in the rural polling subdivisions to any person who is not already on the list to come forward and tender a vote. I will read a portion of it.

At polling stations in rural polling divisions the deputy returning officer shall, while the poll is open, if required by any person whose name is not on the voters' list and who is vouched for by an elector whose name appears upon a voters' list and who is a resident in such polling division, administer to such person an oath in Form No. 33 of Schedule One to this Act and to such other person an oath in Form No. 34 of Schedule One of this Act, and such oath having been taken by the applicant person, and by such other person the deputy returning officer shall at once cause such applicant person's name to be added to the voters' list, with the word "sworn" written thereafter.

So that anyone whose name is not on the list need not be deprived of a vote. All that one is required to do is to come forward with some other person, and his name will then be placed on the list provided he is in a position to take the oath as provided for. That was one of the difficulties I had in mind yesterday. I thought it would probably be unfair to the people in the rural municipalities if they were not permitted to vote in the same way