

Scotia lists that are in force to-day will disappear. In the compilation of such lists an enumerator may, if he pleases, adopt as a basis thereof any part or parts of any provincial or municipal list of voters in force, or last in force, which may be applicable to the polling division. But, on the other hand, he may not choose to do so. He may start anew and go about his work as he deems proper. His discretion is absolute. Have honourable gentlemen formed any idea of what is meant by the wiping out of the whole of the lists of Nova Scotia, and the preparation of new lists? As I have said, if we were making a general franchise Act for the Dominion in ordinary times, a year or two or three years ahead of the end of Parliament, we would be prepared to accept the whole machinery from A to Z, for the appointment of officers, the preparation of the lists, the appeals upon the first draft of the lists, the closing of the lists and their proclamation in due form. We would be prepared for all of that. But I draw attention to the fact that to-day we are past the middle of September. This Parliament will cease to exist on the 7th of October, and it is not probable, if we rely upon orthodox constitutional doctrine, that this Parliament can remain non-existent much more than two months or two months and a half, especially in time of war. We all know that, according to British precedents and doctrines, Parliament is supposed to be always at the call of, and is called by, His Majesty the King. On the very day we adjourn a day will be fixed for the calling of the following session, and that time is again fixed from month to month. Parliament is supposed to be always at the call of His Majesty for the purpose of giving him advice. How much more important is it that Parliament should be existent and that the people should be represented in time of war, when conditions may change or become more difficult. So, I say, if the true constitutional doctrine which has prevailed in England for centuries is accepted, this Parliament will be called within two or three months after the 7th of October, which implies that an election will have to be held in short order. It is my conviction that the Government would be derelict in its duty, if after the 7th of October there were a period of more than forty or sixty days before the election. If that is so, we are facing the necessity of going to the people within two months and a half or three months. I ask honourable gentlemen if this is a proper time for wiping out the

lists of a whole province and starting to reconstruct the whole machinery from the bottom to the top, for the purpose of calling the electors to the polls in that province.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: What about Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The Prime Minister and his representative who framed this Act and took the responsibility for it, took very great pains to explain why they were putting aside the provincial lists in the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia. There are feminine names and a number of names of aliens running all through the lists, that have to be struck out.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: It is the same in Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: You have no women's names.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: You have in the municipal lists, but not in the list upon which provincial or federal elections are held. Great care was taken to explain that.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: If I understand the honourable gentleman, he is raising the point that there will not be time to make up the lists. These other provinces have to make up lists, and in Nova Scotia we can prepare them as quickly as they can.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I understand the point raised by my honourable friend, but I draw attention to the fact that there are two provinces in which you will be facing chaos, Manitoba and British Columbia, and it will be as well to make an effort to make new lists. This does not mean that difficulties will not be met, and that a number of grievances will not creep in. I do not infer that the work will be done thoroughly. But, when we have, as the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State have said, four provinces that have had their lists revised under a system that has existed for over a quarter of a century, is it opportune and proper to do away with those lists, to charge enumerators with starting anew, and to put candidates and the people to considerable worry and expense—looking to the protection of their rights individually and to their mutual advantage collectively—in seeing that proper names are not struck off the lists and improper names added? Is it right to