

authority, protection, and security by reason of the appointment of this new official we should throw upon that official the responsibility of preparing those instructions? If he will make section 36 to read, "immediately after the issue of the writ of election the Chief Electoral Officer shall prepare and transmit". If after the word "shall" in the second line he will add the words "prepare and" then the responsibility is thrown upon the Chief Electoral Officer and he will be accountable for it.

Mr. GUTHRIE: To my mind the language is absolutely and abundantly clear. My hon. friend's first contention was that the Minister of Justice should have the preparation of these instructions, or that some official of the Government should have it. We have tried to get away as far as possible from that, and when the difficulty is pointed out to my hon. friend he seeks to interject something else in order to evade his first point. To my mind the language is so clear that any one who runs may read. However if my hon. friend wants to make the point clear without peradventure, we agree. What is the suggestion?

Mr. McKENZIE: I am not fond of running away from a position like some hon. gentlemen opposite. I am not running away from anything, and if the Acting Solicitor General thinks that by loud talk and swinging himself around he is going to browbeat me into anything he is very much mistaken. I said that I thought the Department of Justice, from whom every department of the Government receives an interpretation of the law and whose opinion they are supposed to take—

Mr. GUTHRIE: Very well, let us put it in.

Mr. McKENZIE:—should also be the proper authority for preparing instructions in regard to this election law. The Minister of Justice says that he wants to get away from the responsibility and he tells us that we have another officer who is responsible and that we should leave the responsibility with him. Now what I suggested was that if, in the second line of section 35 the two words "prepare and" were added then the Chief Electoral Officer will have the responsibility of the instructions that will go out.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That will not read properly. Let the hon. gentleman read on.

Mr. McKENZIE: It will read this way:

Immediately after the issue of the writ of election the chief electoral officer shall prepare and transmit to the returning officer.

[Mr. McKenzie.]

Mr. DOHERTY: What?

Mr. McKENZIE: The writ.

Mr. DOHERTY: But the writ has already been issued. After the writ has been issued the hon. gentleman wants to prepare it. If the hon. gentleman wishes to carry out his idea I suggest that his amendment be inserted in paragraph (b). Then the electoral officer will be required to transmit "sufficient copiously indexed copies of this Act and such instructions prepared by him as are required". I think that would meet the desire of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. McKENZIE: The words in paragraph (a). "such writ" did not catch my eye but the Minister of Justice, and certainly the illuminating gentleman who is in charge of this Bill, did not misunderstand my purpose. It is mere quibbling to try to get out of it by saying that I did not propose to insert the amendment in the right place.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I move then that the words suggested by the hon. member (Mr. McKenzie) be inserted after the word "instructions" in the second line of paragraph (b). Will that satisfy him?

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 37—proclamation by returning officer mailed to postmaster.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Some change requires to be made in the first part of this section. It reads:

Within two days after the receipt of the writ of election the returning officer shall, by a proclamation in form L issued—

The word "issued" should be struck out. The latter part of the paragraph quoted will then read:

—by a proclamation in form L under his hand in the English and French language.

Then in the 28th line the word "mailed" should be struck out and the words "shall mail" be inserted. The remainder of the paragraph will then read:

—and shall mail one copy at least to the various postmasters of the post offices within his electoral district.

Mr. TURGEON: Before the amendment is carried I would ask the Acting Solicitor General, why confine to the provinces of Quebec and Manitoba the privilege of having proclamations issued in the French and English languages? In the province of New Brunswick nearly one third of the population is French, and in several sections only one or two English voters will be found.