

There is a serious difficulty which affects elections in our large cities. My old constituency was of a good type; part of it was very fine indeed; some sections contained many foreigners. But the numbers of men and women who did not live in the division but whose names appeared on the lists would astonish any honourable member. When women first had the right to vote, there appeared on our roll the names of hundreds who, as far as their relation to my division was concerned, might have been residents of China.

Hon. Mr. EULER: You would not have needed the women, anyway.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: I am not going to run again for the other place. I wish the honourable senator from Cariboo (Hon. Mr. Turgeon) would tell this house whether the bill contains any provision to penalize or check impersonation. This is a very serious matter. The late Hon. C. H. Cahan astonished the other house when he related some of his experiences. The best of all was when a manager came to him one day and said, "You can have your choice of two contracts, depending on the price you will pay. By one we will guarantee you a majority at every poll; for a lesser amount we will do the work, but we won't guarantee it." I think the honourable the leader of the opposition will agree that that is more satisfactory than the transferable vote.

Everything I have said is absolutely true as of the time when I was a candidate. I hope it is not so today. But I repeat that the bill should provide some means of preventing thousands of people from voting improperly in city constituencies.

Hon. W. RUPERT DAVIES: Honourable senators, I shall be very brief. I wish only to make one or two references to what has been said about people not voting.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Or voting too many times.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: One reason they do not vote is that a good many of them are left off the lists. At Kingston, on the occasion of the recent provincial elections, the names of 1,500 eligible people were omitted. I do not know who is to blame, although blame is passed around, first to this one and then to that one. It is my opinion that in the final analysis the responsibility should rest with the returning officer. But in the Ontario act—if I may refer to it—there is nothing which places the duty on the returning officer. To a large extent the mischief is caused by the fact that enumerators, both as regards Dominion and provincial elections, are engaged on the basis of so much money for so many names, and, having got

the number of names which entitles them to their remuneration, they stop working. The selection of enumerators for the Dominion elections is divided, I believe, between the two old parties; now, perhaps, the third party is also included. In my opinion no one should be appointed as enumerator unless he is at least twenty-one years of age and understands what he is required to do.

Again, all voters are not senators or members of another place, nor are they as politically-minded as we are. There are people who suddenly wake up on election day to discover that their names are not on the list, and they are very indignant about it, because they were on previously and cannot understand why they have been omitted.

I do not know whether many constituencies are like the riding of Kingston. It is very confusing. For federal purposes, Howe Island and Wolfe Island are in Frontenac. Amherst Island is in Prince Edward-Lennox. But for provincial purposes, Wolfe Island, Howe Island and Amherst Island are in the city of Kingston. If a man or woman living in the urban part of a riding like Kingston is left off the list, he or she cannot be put on it after the court of revision has held its sittings; but if a voter who lives in the village of Portsmouth or on Wolfe Island or Howe Island goes up on election day and swears that he or she is a British subject and has lived in the riding long enough, he is entitled to vote. Here, it seems to me, is an anomaly which should be corrected, although I am not sure whether this is the place to do it.

I am inclined to agree that this bill does not vitally affect this chamber, because we do not have to be elected. Nevertheless it is our duty, I think, to see to it that those who are entitled to vote shall be on the list and shall vote. If the bill is sent to committee there are several questions which might be asked concerning it. At this late date—and it seems to me a very late date in the session to bring in so lengthy and important a measure as this—I do not suppose it can be amended to any great extent. We know that it is primarily the duty of every citizen of Canada to see that he or she is on a list. But what happens? The enumerators type a list and take it around and nail it up on so many telephone posts in each ward, and along comes the rain and a windstorm, and half the list is blown away in twenty-four hours. People come to look at it and cannot find the page in which they are interested, and do not know whether they are on the list or not.

I cannot say that I am wholly in agreement with the principle of compulsory voting. I have talked about it to a number of Australians, and my impression is that the Australian