

express our candid opinion on all measures. If there is a measure as to which there is only a doubt, the doubt should be given in favour of passing the Bill, because it was passed by the House of Commons, but if we consider a measure—as I consider this Bill—absolutely vicious, I claim it is our duty to vote against it. It has been stated that we do not represent anybody here but ourselves. I cannot agree, and I must say no hon. member of this House will agree to that. We are, in effect, appointed by the Cabinet of the day on the recommendation of the first minister, and we are appointed because we are supposed to represent the sober thoughts of the people of this Dominion.

The clause was adopted.

On sub-clause 8:

In the case of any doubt arising with respect to the candidate to whom a ballot paper marked for the Government shall be allotted, the question shall be determined by the Prime Minister or some person designated by him, and if such question arises with respect to a ballot paper marked for the Opposition it shall be decided by the Leader of the Opposition or by some person designated by him.

Hon. Mr. DAVID—Where there are two Independent candidates, or perhaps a Labour candidate, an Independent and a Socialist candidate, who will decide, where the vote is given for the Independent, as to which candidate it should go?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The ballot really anticipates that the vote will be between the Government and the Opposition candidates. Of course, provision is not made for an independent candidate. It would be impossible to convey to the soldiers in the foreign field the personnel of any of the candidates.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I am rising now to make a philosophical objection to the discussion. I find there is very little philosophy here, except that my hon. neighbour on my left (Hon. Mr. Boyer) has some. We are discussing a Bill which we determined to put an end to. It is admitted that we do not approve of the principle.

The CHAIRMAN—It is not admitted. The principle has been adopted.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—And now we are proposing amendments to a Bill to which we are entirely opposed. What is the object? I say the discussion is absolutely useless.

The clause was adopted.

S—30

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—I desire to move the adoption of an additional clause dealing with the appointment of scrutineers. I think some provision should be made in the Bill in order to give security that the ballots are properly and fairly taken. I therefore move that the following clause be added to the Bill:

“There shall be appointed by the Governor in Council six scrutineers, three to be so appointed upon the nomination of the Prime Minister and three upon the nomination of the Leader of the Opposition, one of each nomination who may be present at the distribution of ballot papers and envelopes, the making of affidavits, the marking of ballots, the closing of envelopes, the posting of the same, and may exercise personally or by duly constituted representatives all rights which may, under The Dominion Elections Act, be exercised by candidates or their representatives at any poll. At least eight days notice in writing of the date and place when the vote of said volunteers will be taken shall be given to said scrutineers by the Regimental Officers who will collect the votes, as aforesaid, such notice to be addressed to such scrutineers in the care of the Secretary of the High Commissioner for Canada in London if the Regimental Officers are in Great Britain and to the care of the Canadian Commissioner in Paris if said Regimental Officers are in France, Belgium or Germany.”

Hon. Mr. DAVID—Is that clause similar to the one which was inserted in the first draft of the Bill in the House of Commons?

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—It is with the same idea to a certain extent, but it is not identically the same clause.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I understand that a similar clause was discussed in the Commons and rejected.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK—No, I doubt that statement. There was a proposition that three commissioners be appointed, one from the Government side, one from the Opposition side, and the two would have the appointment of a third commissioner, and if they could not agree I think it was provided that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada should be appointed the third commissioner, and to have the full charge of the running of the election or the superintending of the voting by the soldiers abroad. This was not accepted, but the suggestion had been made across the House that scrutineers should be appointed by both parties, and a Bill, of which I have a copy, was printed and distributed by the Minister of Justice which contains the very principle which is now being embodied in that amendment.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Why not adhere to the clause which appeared in the Bill in the House of Commons?