

EVENTS

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THIS was a short week in Parliament, as Ascension day (Thursday) was a holiday. Anyway, there was not a great deal of interest in the proceedings outside of the discussion which occurred on Tuesday over the Manitoba voters lists. On a motion moving the House into committee of supply Mr. Greenway, the member for Lisgar, drew the attention of the House to the adoption of the provincial franchise for the purpose of Dominion elections. Mr. Greenway sharply criticized the preparation of the Manitoba voters lists and particularly condemned the personal registration. That system was adopted in 1900. It is impossible to describe within ordinary limits of space the details of the system inaugurated in Manitoba, but it is claimed that the way it works out is most unsatisfactory. By an order in council passed a month or two ago it was provided that there should

be seven and one-half hours for registration. In 1903 when the lists were prepared by the judges the registration booths were open for six days. This year commencing the first of June only one day is allowed. On account of the public feeling aroused in Manitoba this was increased to thirteen hours. Again, in 1903 there were 480 registration booths. Under the new system now adopted there are only 40. Reducing it to hours Mr. Greenway found that instead of 20,790 hours the electors are now to have just 520 hours. In some cases the electors have to travel 70 miles, in others 164 miles, and in others 210 and 260 miles. Mr. Greenway's argument led to the conclusion that the amended system was a studied thing for the purpose of perpetuating a list excluding from the franchise a greater number of Liberals than Conservatives.