

that is the list in force and we have to abide by it. Of course, it is not impossible to throw away the lists in Ontario, and, commencing at the bottom, make new lists just as we provide in this Act and just as the Ontario Act provides.

Mr. GRAHAM: It is much more lengthy.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Much more lengthy, and it has its disadvantages as well as its advantages. I readily admit that there are going to be quite a number who will be unfortunate enough to lose their votes, and there will be some who will be fortunate enough to get votes who should not get them. But is it worth while to make such a great change?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I would not suggest that you should do away with the old list and make new ones, but I had hoped that there would be some possibility of taking care of the voters who are shifted around. I think it would be a mistake to do away with the old lists. It would be much more satisfactory to use the lists as already compiled.

Mr. LALOR: No very great hardship or injustice would be done to the farming community because the changes are very few. The injustice is going to be done in the towns of less than 9,000 inhabitants. If some provision could be made by which a revision would take place in towns of 2,000 to 9,000 inhabitants it would obviate a very great injustice. In those towns some provision might be made for a revision of the lists before a judge.

Mr. GLASS: The matter that the hon. member for South Oxford and the hon. member for Haldimand have referred to seems to me can to some extent be remedied. In Ontario, domicile and residence is essential to the privilege of voting. If an elector moves around from one township to another the oath requires him to swear that he is domiciled within the district at the time the vote is taken. Surely we accept the principle that where a man has a vote he must not be deprived of that vote. Why cannot a provision be inserted in the Bill that if a man who is qualified to vote except for domicile moves from one part to another he may go back to the place of his former domicile and vote? There is in this Act, and there has been in the Ontario Act, a discrimination against the country districts, although I do not think there is any very grievous feeling about it. There is provision enabling those living in cities

[Mr. Meighen.]

and towns to apply to a judge to have the names of those who have been omitted and those who have become eligible since the last revision put on the list. There is an anomaly in connection with this Bill to which I would direct the attention of the Secretary of State. There are a number of young men—and this condition more generally prevails in the country districts—who were under 21 years of age when the 1916 lists were revised and who have become of age or will become of age between the time that the last lists were revised and the time when it will be necessary to make the new enumeration. It is an unreasonable and unnecessary anomaly to say that the sisters, mothers and female relatives of soldiers who have become of age shall have votes, whereas the younger brothers, who have been held at home on the farm to enable the older ones possibly to go to the front, are deprived of their votes. Provision might be made to include the names of such young men as may be of legal age at the time the enumeration is being made. I think it would appeal to every hon. member of this House that, if we extend that recognition to the female relatives, we might fairly extend it to the younger brothers who have come of age since the 1916 voters' lists were revised.

Mr. GRAHAM: These same points have been argued for a great many years in the legislature of Ontario. No lists can be made under which some person will not be deprived of a vote who under ordinary conditions would vote. There have been difficulties from time immemorial arising with regard to a man moving from one constituency to another. Provision was made for cheesemakers and clergymen who had moved from one constituency to another.

As to registration in towns of 2,000, I do not know what the situation is now. When I was in the legislature of the province, members objected to registration being extended to the smaller towns on account of the great expense. A man who has not lived in a town or city where there is registration does not understand that he might just as well run an election as a registration. It reminds me of an anecdote told by an ex-Provincial Secretary, of a gentleman whom he approached one day for a subscription to another candidate who was running. This gentleman represented a constituency which only required a candidate to get the convention and his election was assured. When he asked for a little financial aid for a candidate this gentle-