

lemen can see here the form of the ballot which is as simple as it possibly could be and is only changed from the ordinary election ballot, as is necessary in consequence of the substitution of a question of this kind instead of the names of candidates for whom the votes shall be cast. The Bill says that the ballot paper shall be prepared at Ottawa by the Queen's Printer and forwarded to the different returning officers.

Clause 9 provides for the appointment of representatives at the polls, of the two sides of this question, in very much the same way as the Election Act provides for the presence of the representatives of the candidates at the poll.

Clause 10 provides for the oath being administered to the voters in the same way as in the Dominion Election Act.

Clause 11 provides for these representatives showing and producing a written authority from any authorized or known body of electors who may wish to be represented at the poll. For instance, the Dominion Alliance, or the Good Templars, or other temperance organizations on the one hand; and the Licensed Victuallers or any other liquor organization on the other hand, can give an authorization to one chosen by themselves to represent the side of this contest, the interests of which they wish to see safeguarded in the election.

Clause 12 provides that in case no such person with any authority comes to represent one side or the other, the returning officer may, as in the Dominion Election Act when there is no representative of a candidate; he may call upon any elector present to come and act in reference to the counting up of the ballots and for the conduct of the election.

Clause 13 provides what shall be done in the presence of those representatives who are rightly and properly appointed by any particular organization.

Clause 14 describes the way in which the ballot paper shall be marked, just in the way I have already described.

Clause 15 provides that after summing up the votes, as provided in the Dominion Elections Act, the returning officer shall declare the total number of votes given for the affirmative and the negative with respect to the question asked, and clause 16 provides for the returns to be made in practically the same way as returns are made by the deputy returning officers and the returning officers of each electoral division under the Dominion Elections Act; they being transmitted by post duly registered to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. Two copies of the return in each polling division must be delivered to the representatives of the two sides of the question, just in the same way as under the Dominion Elections Act a copy of the returns is delivered to the agents representing the various candidates. The forms of the returns and of the summing up, and the closing of the polls, and all the

Mr. FISHER.

routine work, are to be exactly the same as they are in the case of Dominion elections.

Clause 17 provides that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall declare in the "Canada Gazette" the result of the voting in each electoral division as the returns come in. Clause 18 provides that after all the returns of the different electoral divisions shall have come in, a summary of all the returns, by electoral divisions, by provinces, and for the whole Dominion, shall be made up and published in the "Canada Gazette." This is the whole of the Act, showing, as I started out to say, that it is perfectly simple, that it provides only and solely for the submission of the question which I have read to the people of Canada, by means of the machinery which would be employed were a Dominion election to be held. I do not know that any further explanation is required; and as there is no need, upon the first reading, to go into details or into any argument on the matter, I will leave the Bill in the hands of the House, and move its first reading.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman a question. I think that in the main question the word "or" is used. It struck me, as the hon. gentleman read it, that the word should be "and" instead of "or."

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The question is: "Are you in favour of the passage of an Act prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale." I think the hon. member will see that this means the prohibition of each or any of these particular things; that is to say, the importation will be prohibited, the manufacture will be prohibited, and the sale will be prohibited.

Mr. FOSTER. All of them?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Each and all.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Each one separately or all together. If the hon. gentleman's amendment were made, it might be read by lawyers to mean that it would be the whole collectively that would be prohibited, or nothing.

Mr. FOSTER. I imagine that was the ultimate purpose of those who asked for the plebiscite—that all should be prohibited.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. But if my hon. friend's amendment were made, reading it in the light of my knowledge of the language, I would say that if any one of the things were done, it might be held that was not a contravention of the prohibition, but that a person would have to do the whole three in order to be guilty of contravening the law; and that certainly is not the intention or object of the people who have the temperance cause at heart.