

of the Session, and before we had had an opportunity of reading and understanding it, and I for one found it necessary to state at that time that it was impossible to understand the legislation we were putting on the statute book—

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK:—and we practically refused to discuss the matter at that time.

Hon. Mr. SHARPE: You have had this Act for three years.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: We have had other amendments made that were introduced in that way, and I do not think our experience has been of a kind to make us wish to legislate in that way any more than is absolutely necessary. I certainly think that this legislation is of a most objectionable kind, and I would prefer to see the House consider it very carefully before they pass the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

At six o'clock the Senate took recess.

The Senate resumed at 8 o'clock.

DOMINION ELECTIONS BILL.  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into committee on Bill 12, an Act respecting the Election of Members of the House of Commons and the Electoral Franchise. Hon. Mr. Thompson in the Chair.

Section 1 was agreed to.

On section 2—definitions:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Are there any alterations in this section, or is there any point in it to be considered?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No. There are only about three sections in the entire Bill that have been discussed in the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The advance poll is something new. I do not know whether other honourable gentlemen understand it or not. Perhaps when we come to the clause dealing with that we can discuss it.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: You can go back at any time.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: Come back after the session.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I suppose it would be cruel to ask the honourable gentleman to give us a definition of "advance poll"?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Oh, no. All I can say is that it is a poll of advanced character. When we come to the section dealing with it, we can elaborate upon that.

Section 2 was agreed to.

Sections 3 to 9, inclusive, were agreed to.

On section 10—contributions for political purposes:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I would like to have some explanation about this clause. I think this is a new provision, which states that companies are not to contribute for election purposes.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No, this is the old section.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Is there nothing new in this clause?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This has been the law for years.

Section 10 was agreed to.

Sections 11 and 12 were agreed to.

On section 13—illegal payments to electors:

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: Should not the words, "or who may have voted," be added after the words, "who may intend to vote"?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The elector may not get the opportunity to vote.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: But those words should be added in both paragraph a and paragraph b in order to cover what the section is dealing with. The section begins:

Every person who before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly or by any means or device in attempted evasion of the following provisions.—

(a) Pays or promises to pay in whole or in part the travelling or other expenses of any elector who may intend to vote—

He may intend to vote, or he may have actually voted.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: The clause is worded properly. It forbids providing transportation for not only the man who votes, but also for the man who has the intention of voting. Surely a man who has voted has had the intention of voting. Therefore the case is covered.

Hon. Mr. CHAPPAIS: And this is the law as it now stands on the statute book.