

especially as to-day the means of communication are considerably better than they were eight years ago? The memorandum I have before me says that since that date further transportation facilities, such as the Crow's Nest Pass Railway and steamboat communication, have been introduced.

Mr. MACPHERSON. Just to set the leader of the opposition right, let me tell him that the constituency to-day is quite different from what it was in 1896, even although it has been divided. In 1896 it did not take in these outlying points. Many mining camps have sprung up throughout the district, many miles beyond the limits of Yale and Cariboo, since the election of 1896. In 1900 the elections were not held on the same day, but the constituency has been divided. I am well conversant with the riding, and I know that if the elections are held at any time when the weather is unfavourable, it will be impossible to get the ballot boxes into a number of the districts on time. Possibly the most central point will be Kamloops. It will be impossible to get the ballot box into the Chilicoten country and the Stuart lake country if the weather is at all unfavourable. Drive from Kamloops to Barkerville, and even under the most favourable conditions, it would take a week to reach there from nomination day until polling day. Then again in the eastern portion of the country and north of the Revelstoke country, it would be physically impossible to do the work in Yale and Cariboo in seven or eight days. I have driven through the country and know it fairly well, and the fact is this, that if you have very good weather you might get through in time, but with unfavourable weather that would be impossible.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Of course, you may have weather in any part of the country which may prevent a number of people from voting. That applies to every constituency in Canada. I dare say there have been hundreds of voters prevented by the weather all over Canada from depositing their ballots, but you cannot alter the law to meet every individual case; and what I am suggesting is that Yale and Cariboo, divided as it is and enjoying better means of communication, is just as capable of having an election held on the same day as many other constituencies in Canada. I do not see how it possibly can be otherwise. It is divided in two and you have better means of communication. When you give all possible importance to the fact that fresh settlements have sprung up, can you possibly say that the conditions are not in these as good at present as they were for the whole riding in 1896?

Mr. MACPHERSON. No better. The same communication exists to-day as existed forty years ago in the different parts of the country.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. These are the means they had in 1896?

Mr. MACPHERSON. But the settlements did not then go nearly so far back.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. They generally have means of communication where there are settlements. If there were means of communication forty years old, that indicates that there have been settlements there for forty years.

Mr. MACPHERSON. I said that the communication now is no better than it was forty years ago. It is just as good as in 1896, but the settlements go further. There is no better means of communication than horses to-day and pack trains.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. There are places forty years old in that riding to which there has been the same communication as forty years ago, by means of roads. I suppose the new settlements have good means of communication now?

Mr. MACPHERSON. They have pack trails.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. That is a means of communication to which the hon. gentleman has already referred. These are used a good deal in the western country for the conveyance of freight. What is the great difficulty in getting a ballot box from some central point to every outlying place in the district in three or four days?

Mr. MACPHERSON. It cannot be done.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. You have seven days.

Mr. MACPHERSON. You cannot do it in seven days.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. The condition of things amply justifies legislation. And my present information is that there has been no change in the conditions which would justify any departure from the law as we have it.

Mr. ALCORN. Referring to all the constituencies in which it is proposed to postpone the election, it has always appeared to me that the objection with regard to posting proclamations before the nomination and notices afterwards, and the distribution of ballot boxes, is one that has very little merit. It is a mere matter of placing that work in the hands of a sufficient number of men. It is true that, as a matter of practice, the returning officer for the sake of earning the extra mileage connected with the posting up of these documents does the work personally or with the assistance of one deputy. If he employed three or four, or half a dozen men, surely, in any of these constituencies, the work could be done in eight days. Therefore, I do not see that there is any force in the objection as to these outlying districts. I fancy that, if the plan were adopted of em-