

Mr. LISTER. I understood the Minister of Justice to say that all the documents are not produced to the clerk of the Committee because the officers in his department are engaged in copying them.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. No.

Mr. LISTER. There can then be no possible reason for not producing the original documents before the Committee.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. All the original documents which are not in a book used every day by the department have been sent. Documents, such as letters, which are in books that are used every day, must be copied, because we cannot stop all the work of the department by sending away the books; but all the original documents which are not in books are sent.

Mr. BARRON. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works if he will comply with the promise made last session by the late Premier in regard to the production and laying on the Table of the evidence taken by the Trent Valley Canal Commissioners in regard to the completion of that route. That subject is very important to a great many people in Ontario, who are very anxious to know something about it. Of course, we have the report of the Trent Valley Canal Commissioners, but we require to have the evidence on which that report is based in order to discuss it intelligently.

Mr. BOWELL. Might I ask the hon. gentleman if those papers were moved for in the House, either last session or this session?

Mr. BARRON. I am glad the hon. gentleman has referred to that question. They were not moved for because the late Premier promised that, if they were not too voluminous, they would be printed during the recess and given to each member of the House, but that, in any event, I or anybody could see them on applying at the office where they are kept. He intimated, at all events, that members could get possession of them as soon as possible, and, inasmuch as the promise was of a nature which did not require anyone to move for the papers, I mentioned it at the beginning of this session, and there was an intimation that they would be given to the House.

Mr. BOWELL. I will make enquiry in the department as to the character of the evidence. There is no possible reason for withholding it, and I will see that such evidence as it is possible to lay upon the Table shall be brought down as early as possible.

Mr. LANDERKIN. When are we to have a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee?

Mr. FOSTER. I understand a meeting has been called for Friday morning.

PROHIBITION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

On the Order being read for the proposed motion of Mr. Jamieson:

That, in the opinion of this House, the time has arrived when it is expedient to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.

The motion of Mr. Mackintosh in amendment thereto and the motion of Mr. Taylor in amendment to the amendment.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I have to renew the request which I made when this subject was called

on the Order Paper the week before last and for the same reason. The motion will, of course, be reached this night week, and, unless something unexpected occurs in the meantime, we shall not ask for any further postponement.

Order postponed.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. WOOD (Brockville) moved second reading of Bill (No. 5) to amend the Dominion Elections Act. He said: The object of this Bill, as I partly explained on its introduction, is to change the Dominion election law in two respects: first, as regards the form of oath; and, secondly, to remove some confusion which exists in consequence of the provisions of the Act as it now exists. The first part of the Bill seeks to prevent British subjects who have become American citizens from voting in this country. The second part seeks to amend the law in such a way as to make the instructions contained in the Act itself correspond with the 46th section of the Dominion Elections Act. It is within the recollection of almost every member of this House that, after the recent elections, recounts were had, and difficulties arose over the taking of the ballots in certain constituencies. The result, I submit, was owing to no fault on the part of the deputy returning officers themselves, but might very naturally be attributed to the peculiar or confused reading of the instructions contained in the Act. There is no necessity for enlarging any further upon the Bill, but I will read one of the clauses of form "M" which it is proposed to change, and I think hon. members on both sides will see the necessity for a change:

"The voter will then fold the ballot so as to show a portion of the back only, with the number and initials of the deputy returning officer."

From that wording, I submit that any person, even though he had a legal education, might consider that not only the initials but the number of the deputy returning officer should be placed on the back, and, when you consider the very small number of persons who are allowed to each polling sub-division, and the consequent necessity for a large number of deputy returning officers, farmers' sons, clerks and others, who are not versed in law, it will be felt that every line or clause in the Act which tends to confusion should be made as clear as possible, because, when a mistake is made, the quick tendency is on the part of those against whom the mistake may be made to say that it is done from some improper motive. We know that, when we are in the heat of a conflict and even when the smoke of the battle has not quite cleared away, none of us are too careful to avoid imputing motives, and in that way many are brought under the ban of suspicion. I think both sides of the House will assist me in putting this Bill through so that we may make the Act as clear as possible.

Mr. EDGAR. The hon. gentleman who moves this Bill seems to have in his mind the idea that he is going to make a tremendous reform in the law by preventing British subjects who have been naturalized in the United States from voting here as British subjects. I apprehend that is the main scope of his Bill. I am very much mistaken in my reading of the law if that is at all necessary. I think the hon. gentleman must know that a British subject who goes to the United States and becomes