

should have to travel 40 or 50 miles at an expense of \$10, and the loss of four or five days to have their names placed on the lists at a court of revision. I think the electors should have every opportunity to have their names placed on the lists. I am not asking any advantage for any political party in this matter, but the manner in which the lists have been made up in Manitoba is as I have stated. My hon. friend referred to the majority the Liberals have in the west. I believe they will come back stronger after the election.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Leave that question until next session.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I have no hesitation in saying that it has cost thousands of dollars where it should not have cost hundreds of dollars, to have these lists prepared, and a great deal of inconvenience to the people. I believe in a fair list, and that the judges should have the entire control of them. If they had, we should not find fault; but under the system adopted at the present time in Manitoba the government have controlled the preparation and have even controlled the revision of the lists, because the time is fixed by proclamation and the judges cannot extend the time if the work is not done. There are two or three other features of the Bill to which the Secretary of State has referred. There is one thing which I think will have to be changed and that is subclause 9 of clause 1, which reads:

9. In the province of Manitoba the several judges of the county courts shall constitute a board, of which a majority shall be a quorum, which board shall during the month of July in each year meet in the city of Winnipeg on a day to be named by the senior county court judge resident in Winnipeg and appoint for each Dominion electoral district in the said province a committee of one or of three of such judges, and such committee shall thereupon proceed to define and establish the polling divisions into which, for the purposes of the next following Dominion election, the electoral district for which it is appointed shall be divided, and shall distribute among such different polling divisions the names of the voters entitled to vote in such electoral district as such names appear on the last revised lists of electors for the several provincial electoral districts in said province, so that each voter shall be assigned to his proper poll as established for the purposes of such Dominion election, and such distribution shall be completed before the first day of October in each year.

Hon. Mr. WATSON.

It seems to me that it would be practically impossible, and I cannot give you any better evidence than at the present day the judges that have to do that work may be tied up in court work.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED — They may be dead. Other judges will take their places.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I do not think the time is sufficient. I think you should extend it, say during the month of July, and not later than August 15. Give them a little more time. I do not think any person would desire to see the judges tied in this way, and it seems to me that some slight change should be made.

Hon. Mr. PERLEY—I do not intend to discuss the wickedness of the past, but to confine my remarks to the Bill before the House. After listening to the remarks made by the hon. Secretary of State—which were a rehearsal of the villany, the rascality and wickedness of the election laws in the past—I was pleased that he expressed a desire to make the law as perfect as possible, and I am sure nothing can be more commendable in a public man, particularly a man who has to do with an election, than to make that law as good as it can be made. Under the best of circumstances, there will be some wrong committed in elections. That is the history of the country in the past, particularly if you judge by the speech of the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat. This is a late period in the session to bring down such a Bill. Every one must acknowledge that an election Bill is probably the most important measure that can possibly come before a legislature. It has to do with the representation in parliament, the making of the laws, and the government of the country. Therefore, it is beyond question or doubt that the election law is one of the most important laws that possibly could be made, and one that should receive the most careful attention of every man having a seat in the House of Commons or the Senate of Canada, where we have a right to revise legislation if we see fit. I am prepared to show hon. gentlemen—and I have mentioned the matter to one or two members of the House of Commons, that although they have a similar law in Ontario, they have not taken that cogniz-