

that my honourable friend shall cast any such aspersion upon the Government.

Hon. Mr. McHUGH: I have been in this House seventeen years—

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This House has been sitting day and night, beginning in the morning and sitting until midnight. What does my honourable friend expect us to do?

Hon. Mr. McHUGH: I have been some seventeen years in this House. I have no closer neighbour than the honourable member who is our honoured Speaker. If I have broken the rules of order on this occasion, it is the first time, and I have never before been called to order in this House. I ask no better authority than that of the honourable gentleman who occupies the Chair to say what my conduct in this House has been. I may have been out of order in attributing motives; if so, I withdraw the remark. But I say that the action that has been displayed in not allowing that Committee to sit when this House was in session, and in holding the Bill back in that way, has left the impression on my mind, that the measure was to be strangled. I know that the people of Ontario are greatly interested in that Railway Bill, and do not want to see it delayed in order to gain an election for political friends of the Government in the province of Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, it has been said in the other House by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State that it was not the intention of the Government to bring in a Federal Franchise Act; that the sole purpose of the Government was to bring in a temporary provisional Act, the title of which, "A War-time Elections Act," explained itself. It is provided that the effect of this Bill shall come to an end upon the day of demobilization. I can quite understand the desire of Nova Scotia to transform its provincial lists into Federal lists. That is a legitimate desire; it has prevailed throughout the whole of Canada; and for a number of years we carried on elections—at least two, perhaps three—under a Federal Act; but to attempt to organise a Federal franchise for the whole of Nova Scotia, to govern elections that are within sight, is something which I cannot understand, and which I think cannot be properly done. The suggestion has been made that Nova Scotia should take advantage of this provisional Act to redress a grievance. If there was a grievance, it is surprising that

Hon Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

it was not mentioned where the shoe pinched. If there was a grievance as to the mode of electing the members at the next election, the persons who had that grievance were surely the members of Parliament and not senators. That grievance was not heard of in the other Chamber, and surprise has been expressed by more than one senator who has preceded me that the Senate is now to take up that question. That question is before us under the amendment of the honourable member for Middleton (Hon. W. B. Ross) to the motion for the third reading of the Bill. By this amendment he asks that Nova Scotia be removed from the operation of clause 65A of the Bill. This clause reads as follows:

In the provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the enumerators shall adopt as the basis of the lists of voters which they respectively shall compile the lists prepared for the several polling divisions established, and which on the sixtieth day next preceding the day fixed for the nomination of candidates for the election were in force, or were last in force, under the laws of the province, for the purposes of provincial elections, and they shall not add to such basis list any other names than those of female voters qualified to vote by this part of this Act nor strike off nor erase therefrom any other names than those of persons disqualified from voting, by this part of this Act, and section 62 of this Act shall apply only to qualified female voters whose names do not appear on any list compiled by any enumerator and to persons whose names he has erased or struck from such basis list.

If this amendment is carried, what will be the state of things in Nova Scotia? In order to know that, we have to revert to the work which will devolve upon the enumerators who are to be appointed, and for that purpose we fall back on subsection 2 of clause 42, which reads as follows:

Subject to the provisions of section 65A of this Act, in the compilation of such list, the enumerator may adopt as a basis thereof any part or parts of any provincial or municipal list of voters in force or last in force which may be applicable to the polling division for which he has been appointed, adding to or taking from such list the names of such persons as he may find to be qualified, or not qualified, as the case may be, within the polling division for which he has been appointed. He shall add after the name of every female voter whose name he places or permits to remain on the list of electors prepared by him the letter W in brackets, thus (W).

That shows the work which the enumerators in Nova Scotia would do. What does it mean? It means that the enumerators in Nova Scotia will do the same work that the enumerators in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are charged with. It means that they will prepare lists—new lists in toto. The Nova