

takes them away from home from time to time to record their votes, the object of the provision being to give these classes of persons the right to vote notwithstanding their absence from the particular locality on polling day. That provision, I think, was in force during the election of 1917, but its terms have been somewhat elaborated in the new Bill. The period fixed between nomination day and polling day is fourteen days under the new law. I think I am correct in saying that as the Act is now drawn it will take about one month to carry out all preliminaries between the time when the registrars start to prepare their voters' lists and polling day.

When the Bill comes before the House on the second reading I hope to have an opportunity of making a more elaborate statement in regard to its provisions. Some of the methods proposed are quite new so far as Dominion elections are concerned, although all the systems, I think, which the Bill proposes have heretofore been adopted in some parts of Canada, and from the reports that have come to the Government's knowledge these provisions have worked exceedingly well. The Bill has been prepared with the idea of bringing about uniformity in all parts of Canada; of providing a simple, safe and expeditious method of compiling voters' lists; of providing generally as simple and expeditious election machinery as it is possible to provide. When hon. members have had an opportunity of reading, analysing and discussing the measures, I think they will come to the conclusion that the Bill has been prepared and is now offered to the House upon the foundation of equality and justice in every part of the Dominion.

Mr. W. D. EULER (North Waterloo): May I put a question to the hon. minister just to make one point perfectly clear? I understood him to state that the only requirement for the franchise under the proposed Bill is British citizenship. Will that restore the franchise to all citizens who were naturalized under the old naturalization law—which, I think, gave not British citizenship, but only Canadian citizenship? In other words, will the disabilities be removed that were imposed on citizens of foreign birth under the War-time Elections Act?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Any disability which takes place under the Naturalization Act will still continue. Any person who under the Naturalization Act is precluded from naturalization cannot vote under this Act, because he is not a British subject.

[Mr. Guthrie.]

Mr. EULER: Will people who were naturalized under the Act of 1914 and the Act prior to that be disfranchised under the proposed Act?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The only disfranchising clause in regard to naturalization is the provision which was in our former law: That no person should claim to be a British subject by reason of marriage or relationship with any other person. That provision is continued in the present Bill.

Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): My hon. friend has said that the basis of the franchise under the proposed Act is citizenship. Is there any exception to that rule?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes, there is an exception which was provided under the Act of last session. It provides that where any person is disqualified by reason of race under the laws of any province from voting at any election in the province, the disqualification is continued for the purpose of Dominion elections.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I inquire when copies of the Bill will be available?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I expect that it will be printed in two or three days.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### REPORTS TABLED.

Annual report of Superintendent General of Indian Affairs; copies of Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia.—Sir George Foster.

#### QUESTIONS.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

#### EMBARGO ON CANADIAN CATTLE.

Mr. FOURNIER:

1. Is there an embargo on Canadian cattle exported to Great Britain?
2. If so, have any representations been made since January, 1918, to the Imperial Government asking for the repeal of such embargo?
3. If so, when were these representations made?
4. What is the nature of these representations, and what was the reply of the Imperial Government?

Hon. Mr. TOLMIE:

1. Yes. The legislation (United Kingdom) of 1896 prohibits the landing of cattle from all countries in the United Kingdom, except for purposes of immediate slaughter.