

to the officers appointed, to assure us that they will be representatives of one party as much as another.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I understand this is an entirely new Bill. It is not an amending Bill?

Mr. DOHERTY: No, it is a new Bill. The material changes in conditions seem to make necessary the remodelling rather than the amending of the law. There are provisions, the details of which I do not think it necessary to go into, as to the methods of counting the ballots and the reporting the results to us on this side of the ocean. The purpose behind these provisions has been to secure every care and precaution, looking to a fair count, and looking to the preservation of the secrecy of the ballot.

There are provisions also in regard to the re-count of the ballot. The same reason that makes it desirable that the ballot should not be sent over here before being counted at all, seems to make it desirable that, in case there should be need for a re-count of the ballots taken on the other side, the operation should be carried on over there. The suggestion is that it should be done by a judge or other person who may be designated by the Lord Chief Justice of England, if he will consent to do it. We want to place that matter in the hands of somebody who is quite beyond the suggestion that he in any way is influenced by cis-Atlantic considerations; and there are details as to procedure upon that subject, with which I need not worry the House at the present time. This Bill replaces the present Military Voters' Act, and repeals that Act. I may say further that this Bill, though it is intitled the Military Voters' Act, 1917, proceeds by adding its provisions to, and making them part 4 of the Dominion Elections Act. This was found convenient because, of course, save with regard to these exceptional dispositions, it is desirable that very many provisions of the Dominion Elections Act should apply wherever they are susceptible of application to the operations to be carried on under this Act. We think we have attained that result in a very effective, and at the same time most abbreviated manner by constituting the provisions of this Act part 4 of the Dominion Elections Act.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I suggest to the Government that this Bill might be referred to a special committee after the second reading. The Prime Minister might consider that suggestion.

[Mr. Doherty.]

Sir SAM HUGHES: Do I understand the Prime Minister to assent to the proposal that the Bill introduced by the Minister of Justice shall be referred to a special committee?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I said that I would take that into consideration.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

## CONTROL OF WHEAT CROP OF UNITED STATES.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. A. B. McCOIG (West Kent): I desire to call the attention of the Government to a despatch from Washington dated August 12, which reads as follows:

U.S. Wheat Crop to Be Controlled—Elevators and Mills Will Be Licensed—Keep Eye on Exchanges and Middlemen.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The food administration announced to-night its plan for controlling wheat, flour and bread, revealing that the Government is prepared to take over the whole 1917 wheat harvest if necessary to conserve the supply, fighting forces and their allies, and reduce costs to the general public in the United States.

Establishing of buying agencies at all the principal terminals, licensing of elevators and mills, fixing of a price to be considered fair, regulation of the middlemen, and of grain exchanges, with the elimination of trading in futures, are the chief features of the plan. The licensing will begin September 1.

The minimum price of \$2 for wheat fixed by Congress does not become effective until next year, but the administration proposes to exercise a very thorough control over this year's crop through powers conferred under the food and export control bills.

I ask the Government, in view of the fact that the wheat threshing throughout the province of Ontario is in progress at the present time, and the farmers and consumers, as well as the milling companies, are anxious to know if the Government purpose taking some similar action before the wheat crop is disposed of.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The extract from the paper which my hon. friend has read may be founded upon facts, or it may not. The legislation which has been held up so long in Congress has at last passed; the Bill has received the signature of the President, and is now in force; that is, power is given for the work of the Food Controller, who had been formerly appointed, and who now enters upon his labours. The grain supervisors who were appointed some ten days ago, and who have, in Canada, powers given them by the appointing Order in Council to