

would have helped a great many of us on this side. I do not believe we can make much progress with the Bill in its present form. It might be a very simple affair and perhaps we could dispose of it very quickly if it were in some better shape. This is the most horrible Bill that I ever saw before Parliament.

Mr. CARVELL: I feel very much as my hon. friend does. I had to leave last Friday and I took a copy of the Bill with me. I thought I would have plenty of time on the way down to digest it. I might as well have been reading a Latin grammar that I had never seen as to read that Bill. It was not Latin, it was Greek, to me.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: It would have been perfectly plain to my hon. friend if he had had a copy of the Dominions Elections Act with him.

Mr. CARVELL: I did not have a copy of it. If I had had half a day to myself and a copy of the election law, I might have arrived at some conclusion as to what the Bill meant.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I think my hon. friend will find that it is not as difficult or complicated as he imagines, when he grasps the basic idea of it, which is that the polling subdivision is the unit for the preparation of the lists in Alberta and Saskatchewan. That law is the basis of this Bill. They adopted the principle in the Act of 1905, based upon a previous Act, that the polling subdivision should be the unit for the preparation of the lists. It rather impressed me with its simplicity, and I do not think it will be difficult to understand this Bill if we keep that idea in mind.

Mr. MACLEAN: Is it not possible to carry out my suggestion about having the Bill printed?

Mr. MEIGHEN: It will be possible. I did not want, first of all, to go to the expense, and, secondly, the delay, of printing a large number of copies until we knew what would be its final form.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Only Part II would need to be printed.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That would not be complete, because Part III is essential to an understanding of the effect of Part II. I intend to have that printed, and indeed we could start to-night and print it, but if we did we would likely have to amend it substantially before it got through committee. I know that the two hon. gentlemen who

have spoken will have no difficulty with a copy of the Election Act before them. I could get on without a copy of the Election Act at all. Certainly, the Bill itself is not very likely to have much meaning without the Election Act read with it.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Some of us on this side of the House, with a little labour, could understand the Bill, but a great number would have difficulty in even understanding it. It is only right that they should have some proper understanding of the Bill before they are asked to consider it.

Mr. ROSS: I would like to back up the suggestion made by the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) with regard to the machinery in connection with this Act. It is all very well for the Prime

10 p.m. Minister to say that it is based on the polling subdivision. Let me state what that would mean, and for the purposes of my illustration I will take the riding of West Middlesex in which there are eighty polling subdivisions. It means that you will have to appoint eighty enumerators in that riding, and that they will have to sit for ten days before polling day to prepare these lists. That is going to put an immense expense upon the country. In the 234 ridings, supposing there are eighty subdivisions in each and you have an enumerator for each polling subdivision, the expense is going to be very heavy. I think it would simplify matters if this provision of the Act were reversed. The suggestion made by the hon. member for Carleton is sensible and practical. He says: Why not use the present machinery? Speaking of Ontario particularly, this work might be left to the township and municipal clerks in each municipality who have the preparation of the lists in charge.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: That is not applicable to the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. ROSS: I am speaking of Ontario. There is no reason why the Act should not be made applicable to Ontario if a more sensible and less expensive method is proposed than the one suggested. In rural and town municipalities—it may not apply to cities—why should not the township and municipal clerks prepare these lists, and, during the ten days when the enumerator sits, why should not the township clerk sit at the township hall and revise the lists in the ordinary way? He is more familiar with the lists than any other person in the county. In West Middlesex there are sixteen municipalities, and sixteen township clerks would do the work. Under the sys-