

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: If my honourable friends wish to rise, I would prefer to sit in the morning.

Progress was reported.

LIVE STOCK BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of Bill 123, an Act respecting live stock.

He said: This is a bill to provide for the establishment of live stock exchanges throughout Canada wherever there are stockyards. It practically proposes to place the administration of the stockyards, so far as the exchanges are concerned, in the hands of the Department of Agriculture. Licenses will be issued to persons wishing to conduct an exchange business, which will greatly facilitate all transactions in live stock.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

The Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE SENATE.

Thursday, September 13, 1917.

First Sitting.

The Senate met at Eleven o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

MILITARY VOTERS' BILL.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE. AND REPORTED.

The Senate again went into committee on Bill 127, the Military Voters' Act, 1917.—Hon. Sir James Lougheed. Hon. Mr. Daniel in the Chair.

On subsection 3 of section 12—opening of envelopes, and deposit of ballots in boxes:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Is this a sorting of the ballots? How is that done in the first instance? Do they take all the ballots out of the boxes and sort them out first of all, and then are they sent to other places to be counted?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The envelopes are allocated first. The ballots are then removed from the envelopes and counted.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The envelopes are first sorted out according to constituencies?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The removal of the ballots from the envelopes and the counting of the ballots are separate operations. First, the envelopes are allocated; then the ballots are taken from the envelopes, which is another operation.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: That is all done by the deputy presiding officer?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, special returning officers. Those are selected by both political parties, so that one will be a check upon the other.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Who are selected—the special returning officers?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Those who allocate and count the ballots represent both political parties, half being selected by the leader of the Opposition, and the other half by the Government, no two of the same political party working together. That is provided in an earlier section of the Act.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: If in any constituency there are five candidates, what takes place?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: In paragraph e, subsection 1 of section 4, my honourable friend will see that:

Six scrutineers, three to be appointed on the nomination of the Prime Minister, and three on that of the leader of the Opposition.

Then, in paragraph c of subdivision 1 of section 4:

A sufficient even number of special returning officers, and the same number of clerks, of whom one clerk shall be assigned to each special returning officer.

You will observe that under paragraph c of subsection 1 of section 4 this selection is to be made by the representatives of both political parties, so as to assure absolute fairness and the elimination of all early activity on the part of the officials. It seems to me we have enough trouble in making provision for the two parties without taking into consideration a third party.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: It is very well for the two dominant political parties in Canada to look after their own interests, but what about the other parties who have some substance and who have been strong enough to maintain this Government in power for the past six years? What about their rights and their interests? Should they not have representatives? That is a fair question.