

not think it can be said that he is absolutely a non-partisan.

Mr. MACKIE (Edmonton East): I have not heard all the discussion, but I heard Mr. Biggar's name mentioned. I am very pleased to say that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Biggar who comes from the city of Edmonton. He has only one fault to my knowledge, and that is that he was a Grit at one time, but fortunately he has ceased to be that. I agree with every word that has been spoken in commendation of him by my hon. friend. Mr. Biggar is a man of courage, of excellent reputation, and of integrity, and I would have ample confidence in him if appointed to this office.

Amendment agreed to

Resolution reported.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. Guthrie the resolution as amended was referred to the Committee of the Whole to be considered in connection with Bill No. 12, respecting the election of members of the House of Commons and the electorate franchise.

On section 19—Chief Electoral Officer:

Mr. GUTHRIE: I beg to move that clauses 19 and 20 be stricken from the Bill and that the following be substituted therefor:

The CHAIRMAN: The first motion should be for re-consideration, by unanimous consent, of clause 20, which has been adopted.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I beg to move by unanimous consent that clause 20, which has already been adopted, be now re-considered.

Motion agreed to.

On section 20—staff and temporary assistants:

Mr. GUTHRIE: I beg to move that clauses 19 and 20 be stricken from the Bill and that the following be substituted therefor:

19. Oliver Mowat Biggar, of the city of Ottawa, one of His Majesty's counsel, is hereby appointed Chief Electoral Officer. He shall hold office on the same tenure, be removable only for cause and in the same manner and be from time to time paid the salary and superannuation allowance as a puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Canada. He shall rank as a deputy head of a department, shall communicate with the Governor General through the Secretary of State of Canada, and in addition to the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties with respect to elections now exercisable and performable by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, he shall and may,—

(a) throughout every election properly direct all returning officers and, in case of incompetency or neglect of duty on the part of any of

them, recommend his removal and the appointment of another in his stead.

(b) exercise general direction and supervision over the administrative conduct of elections with a view to ensuring the fairness and impartiality of all election officers and compliance with the provisions of this Act;

(c) report to the House of Commons, through the Speaker, after an election, any matters arising in the course of the election on account of which ought, in his judgment, to be submitted to the House of Commons, and

(d) subject to the performance of the foregoing duties, act as counsel for the Crown or the Attorney General in such causes, prepare such opinions, and make such enquiries as the Governor General in Council may from time to time direct.

(2) The Chief Electoral Officer shall devote himself exclusively to the performance of his duties in the public service.

(3) The Chief Electoral Officer shall be paid his reasonable travelling and living expenses while absent from Ottawa on the business of his office.

(4) Any sums payable to the Chief Electoral Officer shall be paid out of any unappropriated moneys forming part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada.

(5) In the event of the death of the Chief Electoral Officer while Parliament is not sitting, or of his inability or neglect to perform the duties of his office, a substitute shall, upon the application of the Secretary of State, be appointed by the Chief Justice of Canada, or in his absence by the senior judge of the Supreme Court of Canada then present in Ottawa. Upon his appointment such substitute shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Chief Electoral Officer in his place and stand until fifteen days after the commencement of the next following session of Parliament unless the Chief Justice of Canada, or the judge by whom the order appointing him was made, sooner directs that such order be rescinded.

(6) In the absence of both the Chief Justice of Canada and of any judge of the Supreme Court of Canada by whom a substitute for the Chief Electoral Officer has been appointed the order appointing such substitute may be rescinded by any other judge of the said court.

(7) The remuneration of a substitute Chief Electoral Officer may be fixed by the Governor General in Council and shall be part of the general expenses of the election or elections, if any, held during his tenure of office.

Assistant Chief Electoral Officer.

20. (1) Excepting the Chief Electoral Officer and one assistant, to be known as Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, and two stenographers, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor General in Council, there shall be no permanent officers or employees appointed or paid to perform any duties in connection with elections. The Chief Electoral Officer shall from time to time select and appoint such temporary help as he may require for the proper performance of the duties of his office, first, however, submitting to the Auditor General the name and proposed salary payable to the temporary appointee and obtaining a certificate that such salary is reasonable and that funds are lawfully available for the payment thereof. All such appointees shall be discharged forthwith upon completion of the business of the election for or during which they respectively were engaged.