

passed for suggestions, and when we come to a more appropriate occasion I would like to hear the views of the House upon that question. In the meantime the Act as drawn does not provide for compulsory voting.

Mr. JACOBS: I would like to hear from the Acting Solicitor General what his views are upon the objections made to the clause, if he has any.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The Government view is that the clause should pass as it stands. It is set out in the statute as a safeguard. It is older than Confederation. It is nothing but the old legislation of United Canada. I will grant that there may be very many breaches of this enactment at a general election, but I think the provision will serve a good purpose and I believe it is better to have a restrictive clause of this kind than to permit the door to be wide open. I believe, with the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Wilson), that if no such clause as this were upon the statute book, the rich candidate would have a tremendous advantage over the poor one. I could understand a rich candidate, reckless of his expenditure, deliberately hiring every conveyance and motor car in the neighbourhood while the poor man could not meet him because he could not pay the price. I think it is a reasonable safeguard.

Mr. FIELDING: I think it would be a pity to strike it out. I agree with the view of the Acting Solicitor General. I have thought sometimes that if a sensible clause could be drawn it might be possible to allot to each polling booth a certain number of teams in proportion to the number of voters. Something of that sort would possibly get around the abuse. However, I have nothing ready to propose along that line. But I quite agree that, bad as the present situation is, we certainly would fare worse if we had no restrictive clause. I will stand by the clause although I prefer to see something in the way of an amendment if I could put it in shape.

Mr. SEXSMITH: I agree with the hon. member (Mr. J. R. Wilson) that to strike out this clause would be to take a very great step backwards. Every man in the House who has run three or four elections knows very well that if we had not this clause it would leave the door wide open to a wealthy man to hire all the automobiles and liveries in the municipality. Some of us had the experience in the last election of men going around, engaging every hall and monopolizing the situation

in that way because they had money in abundance. I had hoped that this Bill would go still farther. I would make it absolutely illegal for any man to contribute toward a campaign fund. My opinion is that if we made it illegal to contribute towards a campaign fund, did away with the deposit and left the field wide open—a fair field and no favour—it would be better than trying to throw such safeguards as this around an election. By doing so you are making it harder for the average man to do what he has a right to do—aspire to become a candidate for Parliament. I hope that before we get through hon. members will give that and other clauses their serious consideration. As far as the \$200 deposit is concerned I would strike it out and I would make it illegal to contribute to a campaign fund either as an individual or through a corporation. These are the things that lead to corruption. If there were no campaign funds there would be very little corruption.

Mr. JACOBS: What about the Farmer's party?

Mr. SEXSMITH: It would be just in the same position as all the other parties. They would not be going around with their hat and their basket gathering money from door to door. It is a disgraceful thing. When you read in the newspapers about organizations being created and when you have them, as they did in this province during the last provincial campaign and as I understand they are doing in the West, going from door to door and soliciting money to pay campaign expenses; I repeat it is a disgraceful proposition.

Mr. M. CLARK: How would you get the money—behind the door?

Mr. SEXSMITH: No, I would do without money like any other honest man and I would not try to corrupt the voters. I would treat the voters as honest citizens and ask them to vote for the candidate who represented their ideas. I would prefer to run an election that would not cost one dollar and where a newspaper could not hold you up for \$200 or \$300 for printing a few posters announcing a meeting. These are the things that create corruption, and we are sitting here passing laws to stimulate and help them along. In the name of Heaven let us get this Bill in such a shape that it will, if possible, do away with corruption at elections by the Farmer's party or by any other party.