

overlooked, because when the Franchise Act was introduced last session it contained a similar clause to the amendment framed with a view to meeting the conditions which arise in New Brunswick at least. I do not think they are likely to arise elsewhere. In other provinces, except perhaps Prince Edward Island, they have been using practically the Australian ballot, whereas in New Brunswick our elections have been conducted under the old system, under which a man writes his name on the ballot and deposits it, and under which system more persons can register their votes than under the more complicated methods provided under the Dominion Elections Act. But I cannot see where the trouble will arise in the working out of the clause as proposed.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. So far as my recollection goes, there is no such thing done in Dominion elections as writing out the lists alphabetically. My recollection is that they are arranged territorially. When the voters are so numerous as to require a division of the list, the division is made territorially and the voters go to the most convenient place to vote.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The hon. gentleman is not correct. Section 23 of the Electoral Franchise Act is framed on the same principle and mode suggested by the Minister of Railways, with this one exception, that it is done by the revising officer instead of by the returning officer.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Notice is given by the revising officer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Subsection 5 provides that immediately after such revision the revising officer shall prepare a list for each polling district, containing alphabetically the names of all voters residing in such polling district. The same principle of alphabetical order is prescribed by the Electoral Franchise Act of 1885 as is suggested here.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. We provided in this amendment against the possibility of a person being deprived of his vote by having to go to another place different from where he supposed he was entitled to vote, and in case of subdivision of the list providing two polling booths close together. If a man found that he could not vote in section "a," he would find the polling booth for section "b" only a short distance away.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I have here a copy of the polling list for a number of the districts in my county, and the voters' lists for two or three incorporated towns as arranged under the Dominion Franchise Act. The subdivisions are made territorially and the list alphabetically. I will read a description of a polling district:

Mr. BLAIR.

Beginning at a point on the Cow Bay road where the same is intersected by the eastern boundary of the town of Sydney; thence northerly, following the boundary of the said town of Sydney, to the junction of the Low Point Road with a road leading to the shore near the International pier; thence following said road to the shore; thence west into the harbour to the centre thereof; thence following up the centre of the harbour to a point opposite the street known as Prince William Henry Street; thence easterly to and along Prince William Henry Street and the old Cow Bay Road, to the place of commencement.

That is a territorial description of the district. The voters' names are put down in alphabetical order within those boundaries. It does not require, as the Minister of Railways stated, a man to go out of his territorial subdivision to vote in another territorial subdivision.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It is so in all provincial elections.

Mr. McDOUGALL. But we are dealing with Dominion elections and Dominion voters' lists.

Mr. McINERNEY. The hon. Minister made a statement with respect to the Dominion election law in which he was quite wrong. Both Ministers were mistaken as to what the law is, and yet he endeavoured to put me down because I stated the opposite view. One of those hon. gentlemen stated that at St. John he voted at a poll because the initial letter of his was "b," while another gentleman voted at another subdivision because his name began with another letter. The hon. gentleman must be mistaken, because there is no Dominion law that enables him to do so, or to authorize a returning officer to divide a list in two parts and proceed alphabetically. He must divide it territorially and then proceed with the names from "a" to "z." When the hon. Minister of Railway tells me that at the local elections in Kent we have done so, he is wrong, and the hon. gentleman will admit I know something about those elections. The only instance in which there was a subdivision was when the hon. gentleman himself divided Dundas, as the delimiting line was so indefinite that it was easily overlooked. The delimiting line made by the legislature of New Brunswick, in the parish of Dundas in that election, was so indefinite that the sheriff, who was returning officer, did not know how to make up the list at that time. But it never happened in the county of Kent, or in the province of New Brunswick, as far as I know, that the list was divided by cutting the alphabet into pieces. In the Dominion law there cannot be any mistake about it, because the law has never given any such power, and therefore the two hon. gentlemen were absolutely mistaken.