

officer, and that an entry shall be made in the poll-book opposite the voter's name if the deputy returning officer or poll clerk or agent has voted. There is no political controversy about this matter. The House, having, in 1900, adopted the system set forth in the present Bill, has absolutely no reason for rejecting this measure. It places both parties on the same footing; and I should be very loath to believe for an instant that hon. gentlemen opposite would wish to take advantage of the unsatisfactory condition of the law to-day. All we ask is that the law which applies to other parts of the Dominion should apply to the Northwest Territories.

Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON (Minister of the Interior). I had no intention, in addressing the question I did to my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) as to the source of complaint in regard to the present law, to suggest that any member of the House had not a perfect right to introduce a Bill to amend any public statute. I was asking for information, to ascertain whether or not, as a matter of fact, complaints had been made as to the operation of the present law, and, if so, from what source those complaints had come. I asked that question, because, so far as I am concerned, my attention had not been drawn to any complaints made as to the operation of the present law. The representation law for the Northwest Territories, as the House is aware, is not the same as the law which governs the rest of the Dominion. Parliament has thought well that a different law should be in force there, because of the fact that, owing to the sparseness of population and the extent of the districts, the ordinary law as respects the compilation of voters' lists could not be conveniently applied. There have been some modifications of the election law made since 1896 in the direction of protecting the opposition, or the party not in control of the official machinery, and considerable improvement has been made in that respect. I do not think that any objection could be taken to an amendment which has for its purpose to limit or prevent the possibility of fraud. But, for myself, not being aware that my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) intended to move his Bill this evening, I have not had the opportunity to give the matter the consideration, in consultation with the members of the Northwest Territories, that I would like to have given, in order to ascertain how the law has worked. I would not like to express a positive opinion against the proposal of my hon. friend, nor would I, without looking into the matter, express an opinion in favour of it. I move the adjournment of the debate, so that the matter can be considered at a future time.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I would have no objection to the motion of my hon. friend (Mr. Sifton), and I understand that the reasons he has given for the adjournment of the debate are quite plausible. But I am under

the impression that this is the last day when public Bills can be brought up by private members, unless they can be brought up on Monday.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. They can be brought up on Monday.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Under these circumstances, I have no objection to the motion.

Motion (Mr. Sifton) agreed to, and debate adjourned.

YUKON TERRITORY REPRESENTATION ACT, 1902, AMENDMENT.

On the order :

Second reading of Bill (No. 118) to amend the Yukon Territory Representation Act, 1902.—Mr. Casgrain.

Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON (Minister of the Interior). I may say to my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) before proceeding with this motion that it is the intention of the government to introduce a Bill for the purpose of amending the election law in connection with the Yukon Territory, and, possibly, the amendment which my hon. friend desires to suggest can be more conveniently discussed then. We will give the hon. gentleman an opportunity to bring forward his amendment when our Bill is before the House.

Mr. CASGRAIN. If I had not been told, in answer to a question which I put at the beginning of the session, that it was the intention of the government to amend the Yukon Representation Act—

Mr. SIFTON. I think the hon. gentleman was told exactly the opposite.

Mr. CASGRAIN. No—unless I completely misunderstood the answer. Had I not understood that the government did not intend to amend the Act, I would not have introduced the Bill. There are some parts of the present law so glaringly inconsistent with some other parts that it is necessary that the government should amend it. I would draw my hon. friend's (Mr. Sifton's) attention, for instance, to the oath. He will see at once that the oath described in the schedule of the Act is not at all in accordance with the provisions of the Act itself.

Mr. SIFTON. If the hon. gentleman will move the second reading and make the explanations he intended to make, we will then have the benefit of his remarks so that we can consider them in connection with the Bill we intend to introduce.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I move that Bill (No. 118) to amend the Yukon Territory Representation Act, 1902, be read the second time. Now, here is the oath :

You do swear that you are of the male sex and a British subject, that you are not an Indian, that you are of the full age of twenty-one years, and that you have resided in the