

zinc ores mined in Canada—Hon. Sir James Lougheed—was received from the House of Commons and read the first time.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: This is simply to bring the Act of 1916 into effect?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, to continue the bounties on zinc. As my honourable friend knows, this is peculiarly applicable, and might be said to be exclusively applicable, to British Columbia.

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

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the third reading of the Bill.

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

YUKON ELECTION BILL.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

Bill No. 112, an Act respecting the election held in the electoral district of Yukon—Hon. Sir James Lougheed—was received from the House of Commons and read the first time.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: The Yukon election has been discussed exhaustively in the House of Commons, and we are all more or less familiar with the facts. The object of this Bill is to permit—if the defeated candidate should so desire—of sufficient time being given to have recourse to the courts to controvert the return by the General Returning Officer, made on the 21st day of May, of the sitting member. That time would have expired, under the machinery of the Act as it is at present. Consequently it is proposed that sufficient time be given—namely, forty days from the twenty-first day of May, the date of the return—to permit of this being done.

Exception cannot be taken to the first clause of the Bill. As to the second clause, relating to the application of the votes of the military, Parliament has determined by its vote that these votes may be counted in accordance with the way in which they have been marked. It is provided that validity shall be given to the votes of the military electors, notwithstanding the doubt which has been thrown upon the election held in the Yukon electoral district by reason of the nomination having taken place at a period subsequent to the general nominations throughout Canada.

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This is only reasonable, in view of the fact that the candidates in the Yukon election, as in other electoral districts of Canada, represent respectively the Government and the Opposition; and, although the candidates in the Yukon election were not nominated on the same date as candidates in the general election throughout Canada, the military electors voted either for the Government or for the Opposition. As the majority of the votes were cast in favour of the Government, whose candidate is the sitting member, no doubt should be thrown upon the polling of the military electors, as they have indicated their wish and their will in the marking of their ballots. This is for the purpose of validating that vote.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I have only had a few minutes to look at this Bill, which is brought down in the dying hours of the session. Of course, the Bill is one that the other Chamber has a great deal more to do with than we have in this Senate Chamber. I might also term this Bill a nice piece of camouflage. The first clause of the Bill, as my honourable friend has said, gives to the defeated candidate an opportunity of moving against the return made by the General Returning Officer; but the other House could easily have done this without any Bill of this kind, had they come to that understanding either in the Committee on Privileges and Elections or when the question was brought up in the House. I do not propose to take up the time of honourable gentlemen now in discussing this matter, because, as my honourable friend has said, every member of the House is probably conversant with what has happened. I look upon the introduction of this Bill as a very extraordinary procedure, and one that I hardly think even my honourable friend can be very much in favour of. I think the Government would have shown very much better judgment had they adopted the report of their own committee, and allowed this matter to be threshed out, as I understand could have been done, before the courts, for it would then have been settled. This Bill has the effect simply of making the decision of the committee of the House of Commons effective by Act of Parliament, and electing a gentleman who was nominated after the election was held and after all the votes had been cast, so that the soldiers had no opportunity of knowing who were the candidates, or practically knowing anything about them. After the whole election was over, these two gentlemen were nominated and they ran an election. I have understood that prac-