

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend forgets that when we were discussing the question of adjourning over last Monday in order to permit members of this House to register their votes in Ontario—which was a fair proposition—I suggested that a Bill which was coming over from the Commons would free them of the penalty for non-attendance at that time and they might safely go and register their votes as good citizens of Ontario. I am bound by that statement.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I remember that at that very time it was pointed out as a warning that if honourable gentlemen went they would be absent at their own risk. Their attention was called to the possibility that the Bill might not pass, and the honourable leader could give no assurance that it would pass.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I was in the hands of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Yes, in the hands of the Senate, and you still are, and you are in good hands, I must say. But, after all, supposing the honourable gentleman did say that, and had the right to say it and the power to back it up, does it alter the case so far as the country is concerned? What mandate had you from the party of the other part?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The same as in 1920.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Ah, but you gave a quid pro quo in 1920; you increased and tightened up the regulations with regard to attendance. But you are giving nothing in return now, and that is why I say this measure should not apply to the present year. You have not the regulations which are to supplement the new Act. To the extent that members have been absent this session they should forfeit their indemnity under the Act.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: All I will say in answer to my honourable friend is that when the Act of 1920 was under consideration, in the last hours of the Session, I drew the attention of the honourable gentleman opposite (Hon. Sir James Loughheed), who had presented the Bill, to some gross imperfections in it, and he replied that if imperfections were found to exist the Act could at the following Session or at any time be amended. We are now dealing with it for the first time. If the honourable gentleman from Sussex will bear with us until we have reached a certain section, he will find that we are seeking power to make more stringent regulations if they are found necessary.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: But you are not going to make those regulations this Session.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER.

If you were, I should have nothing further to say on this point. For this Session honourable members who have been absent are to go scot free: the lid is off.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: After the Bill is passed it will be open to us to make regulations this Session.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Yes, and it will stay open. That is the intention. It is not going to be done. If my honourable friend will assure us that those regulations will be made, I shall have nothing further to say on this point. What is the good of saying it will remain open? Anybody knows that it is open, but the question is whether it is going to be closed or not. That is the point we have to consider, and that is the point that is important.

New section 37 was agreed to.

New section 38 was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I move that the following be added to section 3 of the Bill as new section 38A:

38A. The Senate or the House of Commons may respectively make regulations from time to time, by rule or by order, rendering more stringent upon its own members the provisions of this Act which relate to attendance of members or to deductions to be made from the sessional allowance.

In order that the Commons may know why we propose this amendment to authorize the making of these regulations, I may explain that there are conditions peculiar to each House which should be dealt with in each case by the House concerned. We are asking power, not to relax the requirements, but to make the amended Act more stringent in its application. I think that the Commons will agree with this proposal of the Senate.

The proposed amendment was agreed to.

On section 4—application of this Act:

All the provisions of the said Act as enacted by the present Act shall apply to the present session of Parliament except the provisions of section thirty-four, which shall only apply to the sessions of Parliament held subsequent to the date of the passing of the present Act.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I move that that be stricken out and that these words be substituted:

This Act shall not come into force until the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four.

I do not think it should apply to this Session at all.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We ought not to break faith with the House of Commons, which has accepted the report of the Joint