

only to take the list of the parish as it stands, and transfer it from one polling division to the other. But, in Manitoba, where the lists are not made by municipalities or by polling divisions, but for the whole constituency, it is absolutely indispensable that there should be somebody, in case of overlapping, to allocate the names according to the divisions. However, as the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) said, to have that bisecting done, all you have to do is to have the names allocated to one division or the other. Now, we will not quarrel over that. I understand that the proposal is acceptable—

Mr. FOSTER. Let us be perfectly clear. The right hon. gentleman has nothing further to say with reference to the polling divisions which are not divided by the boundaries of the constituencies?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If the polling divisions are not divided by the boundaries of the Dominion constituencies, I do not see any necessity for intervention; it is only where they are divided, so far as I can see, that the necessity for intervention arises.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE. Before the right hon. gentleman leaves that point, as he has admitted that he sees no reason for interference where the polling subdivisions are entirely within the Dominion constituency, what defence has he to offer for the interference in the last election?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. My answer is that I am not aware that anything of that kind took place.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I simply say that it has not been brought to my attention and I do not know about it. I can only say that, if it were so, I am surprised that the prosecutions were not carried out to a final issue.

Now, Sir, so far, we agree that there is a measure of relief which would give satisfaction to both Grits and Tories alike. That is a point at which it is satisfactory to have arrived. The question, however, does not rest there. On this side of the House there is an intimate conviction that the lists in the province of Manitoba are very unfair to the political party to which I belong. The members from Manitoba who sit on this side have given what seem to me conclusive evidence on that point. I have looked into the Manitoba Act. In many respects, it is a commendable Act. But, in my humble judgment, the Manitoba Act has a radical defect in this, that it places the whole machinery of the revision of the lists in the hands of the Governor in Council.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. It does not.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Some exception is taken to my statement. I rather welcome this. Let us discuss the point. What I say is that, under the Act as it is at the present time, there is one thing that is permanent, settled for all time. The registration board, as constituted by the Act, is composed of the county judges of the province, which board appoints the revising officers. But who appoints the registration clerks?

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Revision is what you were talking about, not registration.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. We are talking about both, because both go together. Who appoints the registration clerks? The government of the province of Manitoba. Who fixes the registration districts? The government of the province of Manitoba. Who fixes the revision districts? The government of the province of Manitoba. On this point, I have only to call attention to section 22 of the Act, which is as follows:

22. Annually, on or before the first day of May, the Lieutenant Governor in Council, shall, by order in council, authorize the issuing of a proclamation (form 1 in the schedule to this Act) setting forth:

(1) That it has been determined to add to, correct and revise the list of electors;

(2) The names and post office addresses of the persons appointed by such order in council to act as registration clerks in the respective electoral divisions of the province, for such purposes;

(3) The date or dates on, the place or places at, and the hours between which applications for registration and the correction and striking off names of electors will be received and shall be concluded in each electoral division.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Will the right hon. gentleman excuse me? Perhaps he will read section 61 also.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I will go further than my hon. friend (Mr. Schaffner) asks. I will read not only section 61, but section 42 and section 65 also.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Read the whole Act. We will stand by the whole Act.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Very well. Here is section 61:

In order to give full and due effect to the powers of the board, the said board may provide for any proceeding, matter or thing for which express provision has not been herein made, or for which only partial provision has been made; or, where it shall be found that the time allowed to do any act is insufficient and an alteration or extension of such time, and any alteration of dates consequent thereon, shall appear to be necessary, the board may declare that such alteration may be made, and thereupon the same shall be made and take effect accordingly.

This is the power of the board. As I understand it is to extend the time and to