

Mr. McKENZIE: Would a Salvation Army officer be disqualified?

Mr. McISAAC: I think the word "ecclesiastic" in its present connection refers to any one who is preparing for the priesthood or the clergy. I am not sure whether or not the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria would come under the definition of "ecclesiastic," but I am informed that he frequently takes a turn at preaching in the pulpit when an opportunity presents itself.

Mr. McKENZIE: I am rather pleased to think that my hon. friend thinks me capable of filling so exalted an office. It is more than we can say of the hon. member, however; for while it is true he did attempt to qualify as a preacher, the higher authorities turned him down on the ground of his unfortunate unfitness.

Mr. MANTON: Mr. Chairman, may I give the definition of the word "ecclesiastic"? An ecclesiastic is "a person who is in Orders or is consecrated to the service of the church and the ministry of religion; a clergyman, a priest." I think that disposes of the question concerning Mr. Gisborne, raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. McKenzie).

Mr. JACOBS: What dictionary are you reading from?

Mr. MANTON: Webster's.

Mr. CANNON: Will the Acting Solicitor General give me the information I asked for?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The hon. member's question is, I think, whether any penalty is imposed upon a Returning Officer who fails to perform the duties of his office. When we come to the penalty clauses we can provide a penalty for recreant returning officers, if there is none. I do not see, however, how that matter can affect this clause.

Mr. CANNON: I know a returning officer in my county—

Mr. GUTHRIE: We will put it in if it is not here.

Mr. CANNON: Before adopting a clause of this importance I would like to know what we are adopting.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The question does not arise under this clause. This is a clause which says what persons shall be ineligible or excusable. Clause 27, which has already

[Mr. Jacobs.]

been carried, provides a penalty for the returning officer.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I would like to know what the minister intends to do with this clause. If he intends to go on I propose to submit an amendment, but if it is going to stand I do not want to put my amendment on record at this time.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Under the arrangement, if there is any amendment, the clause will certainly stand.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: I beg to move that further consideration of clause 35 be postponed.

Motion agreed to and section stands.

On section 36—writs of election, indexed copies of this Act, blank poll books and forms to be sent to returning officer:

Mr. PROULX: That means that a stamp will have to be made for every election.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes.

Mr. PROULX: It was found in the last provincial election in Ontario that it was very costly and they intend to do away with the stamp at every election.

Mr. GUTHRIE: We will adopt a cheaper stamp.

Mr. McKENZIE: I would like to call attention to the words in subsection (b) "and of such instructions as are required to properly carry out the election." These instructions are supposed to go out from the Chief Electoral Officer. In the last election in our part of the country instructions were contained in the book of instructions that went out that were not justified by the Act. Of course any instructions going out must be in conformity with the effect of the election law. I maintain that no instructions should go out except those which have the approval of the Department of Justice. If we give any election officer the power to issue instructions within the terms of the Act we are giving him too much power and we may be putting it in the hands of officials and persons who are not lawyers to issue instructions which are not in accordance with the Act.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The former Act had in it a provision that the instructions were to be approved by the Governor in Council. In the drafting of this Bill we have tried to get as far away from the Governor in Council or Department of Justice as possible. We have deliberately selected a high