

ments will be those of British citizenship, residence in Canada for one year and in the particular constituency for two months, and the attainment of the age of twenty-one years; these requirements will apply in the case of male and female voters alike.

In regard to the preparation of voters' lists, the principle adopted is that the existing lists in any province which are authorized by law for use in provincial elections shall be utilized in Dominion elections, provided that they are not more than one year old, or that not longer than twelve months has elapsed between the completion of such lists and the issue of a writ for the Dominion election. Where such lists are not more than one year old they are to form the basis for the Dominion lists. In provinces where such lists exist they are adopted under the Bill; but power is given to add to such provincial lists names which should be added, and power also is given to take from such provincial lists the names of those persons which should be taken therefrom. That will provide an up-to-date list in all the provinces for use at a general election.

Where no such provincial lists exist the principle adopted by the Bill is, in urban municipalities, that of registration and, in rural municipalities, that of registration by way of enumeration. Urban municipalities are described in the Bill as cities, towns, and incorporated villages with populations of not less than 1,000. In such municipalities the principle of registration is very simple: All persons, male and female, will be required to register within the time prescribed by the Bill. When the registration period has expired appeals are permitted either by those whose names are not upon the lists, or against those whose names have been placed thereon. Those appeals in all provinces where there are what we know as County Judges are to those judges, who are appointed revising officers. In provinces where there are District Judges, as opposed to County Judges, the appeals are to the District Judges.

In rural municipalities the procedure is a little different. Where there are no provincial lists which can be utilized under the terms of the Bill a registrar is appointed to prepare the list. He makes an enumeration of the voters in the rural polling sub-divisions, notifying the community of the days during which he will act. When his list has been completed it must be returned to the proper officer. But in this case there is no revision or appeal, because there is a clause in the Bill which provides that any person who claims to be entitled to a vote, in a

rural sub-division, and whose name has been omitted by the registrar, shall be entitled on polling day, on taking the prescribed election oath, to receive a ballot and cast his vote as any other elector is entitled to vote. It is therefore not necessary under this system to provide for any appeal or revision.

The machinery provided by the Bill for the conduct of elections does not differ very greatly from the machinery which has been utilized in this country during the past twenty-five or thirty years. A great many clauses of the old election law have been retained, some new ones have been added, and some have been incorporated from the English election law. I would call the attention of the House to the references which appear at the end of the various sections in the Bill. The Bill will be printed in a day or two and then distributed. These references relate to the Dominion Election Act of 1896, to the subsequent election Acts passed in this country, and also to the British Election Act. But when you see a reference to any of these Acts at the end of a section, it does not mean that that section has been copied verbatim into the new Act, because in a great many cases the old sections have had to be modified.

There are one or two innovations—I think they are innovations in this country. The Bill proposes to abolish the office of Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and to substitute an official to be known as the General Electoral Officer. The duties of the General Electoral Officer will be, generally speaking, to take charge of the election machinery and the conduct of elections in general throughout the Dominion. These duties will correspond to a large extent with those performed by the Dominion Returning Officer in the election of 1917.

Hon. Mr. BELAND: Will he be a permanent official?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The Bill provides that the General Electoral Officer of Canada shall be a parliamentary counsel of the House of Commons. He is to be a permanent officer. His tenure of office will be the same as that of a Superior Court Judge, and he can only be removed from office upon grounds similar to those upon which a Superior Court Judge can be removed. He will be in every way a permanent and independent officer.

There are other innovations, such as the provision for advance polls to enable railway employees, sailors, commercial travellers, and other persons whose usual business