

Mr. CARVELL: Suppose a hundred, or two hundred, or three hundred names were struck off the list by the enumerator—

Mr. MEIGHEN: There are only 300 on the list.

Mr. CARVELL: I am speaking of the electoral district.

Mr. MEIGHEN: You have to consider the polling division as the unit.

Mr. CARVELL: Say there should be 300 of these men struck off in an ordinary constituency. I want to tell you that if you had to deal with some of the people we have to deal with in the Maritime Provinces, you would know how easily it could be done. These 300 votes would not be counted, they would be placed in envelopes, and would finally reach the judge. Think what a burden that would impose upon the candidate, to bring those 300 witnesses in order to prove they are qualified voters. I confess I never had any experience in preparing lists by enumerators as hon. gentlemen in this House from the West have had, and they would know very much more about it than I do. At the same time, it seems to me it makes the enumerator practically a dictator. That is so repugnant to the ideas we have always had in the East in regard to the preparation of voters' lists, that I view it with the greatest alarm. Think of a man, who is always a political supporter of course, being chosen to go around the country and make up a list of the female voters, and who would also be allowed to strike from the list the names of any voters who are aliens, or former aliens, or conscientious objectors. So far as the Maritime Provinces are concerned, I think the number of the aliens and conscientious objectors is practically nil. This enumerator starts to make out a list of the female voters. There seems to be practically no appeal from his decision. He works in the dark, or at night, and anywhere he has a mind to, and strikes off practically whomever he pleases. All we know is that ten days before the election one of these lists is put up in the post office, and that the enumerator is to be at some place for two hours each day after that to listen to objections. But suppose he will not listen to them? It seems to me this work should be done by the same officials who are making up the lists at the present time, at least in the provinces east of the Great Lakes. Almost invariably, these enumerators are representative of both political parties. In the province of New Brunswick you will find once in a

[Mr. Meighen.]

while a board composed altogether of Liberals or altogether of Conservatives, but that is a very rare occurrence. Each party has a chance to be heard. Before a man's name is removed he must have notice, and after the list is made it is posted up and notice given that at a certain time the board will meet to revise it. I should think some arrangement of that sort might be arrived at. They have had this system of enumerators in the West, but we have never had it in the East, and I can see all sorts of trouble looming up. I would like the Government to consider if there is not some way of utilizing the machinery already existing for the preparation of those lists.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: I would like to ask the Secretary of State if subsection 2 so numbered, at the top of page 4, refers to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan alone.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The four western provinces and Prince Edward Island. Wherever the enumerator makes a whole list, he uses as a basis any information he can get.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: If the minister had stated that before, I think it would have cleared up the matter to a great many gentlemen on this side. It would be a very unfair provision to apply in my own province at least.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Why?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: It would practically do away with the provincial list. In section 65 A it is provided that the list in force for provincial purposes shall be adopted by the enumerator. But under subsection 2 the enumerator is given power to make an entirely new list. I would make a suggestion. I understood from the Secretary of State this afternoon that he had the manuscript in typewritten form of what will be Part II, that is, he has all the sections with the amendments proposed in this Bill written in. Would it not be possible to send that to the printer immediately and have it back perhaps some time to-morrow. It is almost impossible to understand the Bill as it is, and one's time is taken up in trying to read it, leaving very little to consider the principle of the Bill or make suggestions. It is most confusing. I do not think it is a fair way to put a Bill before the committee. Usually we have marginal notes in Bills, which are very helpful. For instance, if subsection 2 on page 4 referred to the fact that it was applicable to British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, it