

Hon. Mr. POWER: The Bill has just been laid before us. The fact that the draft of this Bill was laid before the Commons early in the session does not mean anything. The members of this House, as a whole, are not at all familiar with the Bill. Apparently the Government have not been able to frame a measure that would meet the ends of justice, and they might give us an hour to do so.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS BILL.

FIRST READING.

Bill 9, an Act to amend the House of Commons Act.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, this is a Bill which was brought in by a member from Montreal, Mr. Jacobs, and which was taken up by the Government. It has to do with elections to the House of Commons, and provides that a writ shall be issued within six months after the receipt by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery of the warrant. It also deals with the case of a member who has been elected for two electoral districts. It is a very desirable Bill, and as it has been approved by the House of Commons, which is the only body interested in the subject, I move the second reading.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Honourable gentlemen, as I understand it, this Bill deals entirely with matters affecting the House of Commons, and I do not know that the Senate should have very much to say in regard to it. Of course, the same objection that I took a few moments ago to another Bill is applicable to this Bill. It is brought before us in the dying days of the session, and, as I have it before me, is in the form in which it was introduced into the House of Commons. I did not know that it was coming up this morning, and I have not had time to read it. However, as it affects only the House of Commons, I think we might let the second reading go through and consider it more closely in committee.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into Committee on the Bill. Hon. Mr. Gordon in the Chair.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

On new section 11a of section 1—election writ to issue within six months after warrant:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I would like to point out to the House that this clause simply fixes a date before which the writ shall be issued, but there is nothing with regard to the time when an election shall be held. I have not the Election Act before me, but I understand that although a writ could be issued within six months, the election might not be held for a year or eighteen months after that time. As I understand it, there is nothing to fix the date of the election.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The writ fixes the date of the election, and my recollection is that it follows within a certain number of days.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: If a writ is issued on the first of January, must the election be held before the 1st of March?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I understand that there is a limitation in the Act dealing with that.

New section 11 A of section 1 was agreed to.

On new section 11b of section 1—nomination for one electoral district only:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Would the leader of the Government explain why this is necessary? The plural nomination has been very unusual in the past, and I do not know of any case where any great difficulty has resulted from it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I think it is very undesirable that a member should run for two constituencies, and after the election resign one of them, entailing a second election. It means that the public exchequer is drawn on for the expense of holding a second election.

New section 11b of section 1 was agreed to.

The preamble and the title were agreed to.

The Bill was reported without amendment.

THIRD READING.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Bill was read the third time and passed.

PUBLIC PRINTING AND STATIONERY BILL.

FIRST READING.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill 36, an Act to amend the Public Printing and Stationery Act.

The Bill was read the first time.