

will include part of local constituencies. One part of a local constituency will go into one Dominion constituency and another part into another. Therefore the lists must be adjusted. There must be a red or a black line passed through the names which are not in the constituency for Dominion purposes. Somebody must do that work of adjusting the local lists to the Dominion constituencies by erasing the names which are not in the Federal constituency and adding others which ought to be in the lists. This was the duty entrusted to the returning officers by the Act of 1904 and which they must perform again when we have another Dominion election.

Mr. FOSTER. That is, so far as I follow my right hon. friend, this rearrangement has to be done in the case of polling divisions which are divided by the boundaries of Dominion constituencies.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Exactly. We are agreed upon that. Who then shall do this duty? We did entrust it to the returning officer, but we would not do so now. On this point, for my part, after having conferred with my hon. friend the Minister of Justice and my colleagues, we are ready to accept the suggestion made by my hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. Roche) in his speech the other day. My hon. friend quoted the law passed by the legislature of Manitoba subsequently to the last election and then went on in this way:

I tell the Prime Minister that there would not have been the slightest objection to the manner in which the last elections in Manitoba were conducted had the law been observed. I tell the Prime Minister candidly that if he wants to prevent a recurrence of the carelessness of transferring names, and if he wants to prevent the disfranchisement of electors by means of transferring where there is overlapping, the only thing he has to do is to adopt the provision of the provincial Act and employ a county court judge to do that dividing. That will get over every complaint that has been made and it will obviate the necessity of the thin red line. Let the county court judge do the transferring where there is overlapping, let him appoint each one of these separated places as a separate polling division as the provincial Act enacts, let him do the dividing of the lists and there will not be a single complaint from Grit or Tory in the province of Manitoba.

The Act to which the hon. gentleman refers says:

In the event of territory comprised within or partly comprised within an electoral division being changed and included in another electoral division, or other electoral divisions, whether newly created or not, a judge of one of the county courts divisions of the province to be nominated and appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, shall subdivide the names appearing on the list of electors, as so finally revised, according to the altered

boundaries or limits, and make a complete list of electors for the electoral divisions affected, as aforesaid, and appropriately divide the names of electors and allot the territory between suitable polling subdivisions as shall, in the opinion of such judge, be just and equitable.

I must say that the provision of this Act of the legislature of Manitoba seems to be fair. We are disposed to accept it. But we cannot do this except by legislation, and legislation of this parliament. And I say to my hon. friend (Mr. W. J. Roche) that, if this would be agreeable to Grit and Tory alike, for my part I am quite willing to take this means of giving satisfaction to Grit and Tory alike. But my hon. friend should have had some consistency in his speech. After making this offer, he has moved an amendment which practically defeats the object he has in mind.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE. No.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes. Because if the amendment is carried, there can be no reference to judges to allocate the names.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Because the Bill will be defeated.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. But, will the right hon. gentleman permit me a moment? I made the same suggestion in the first speech that was made on this Bill on this side of the House. I pointed out that the difficulty is not confined to Manitoba, and stated that we were willing to accept the provisions of the Manitoba law as general legislation applicable to all Canada.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. But I have this to say to my hon. friend—that this difficulty arises in Manitoba, and elsewhere it does not arise.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Because everywhere else the lists are prepared by the municipality.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. But that cannot make any difference in the division of the lists.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Did the hon. gentleman ever hear of any difficulty elsewhere? For instance, there was at one time a case in Quebec—I think it has been rectified since. The parish of St. Guillaume, which was in Yamaska for the local, was in Drummond and Arthabaska in the federal, and yet there was no difficulty.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. There need be no difficulty where the law as it stands is honestly carried out.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Oh, that red line is too thin altogether. There was no difficulty in that case, because you have