

Really, there is no contradiction at all there because if there is a general election, since there is no other province with this restriction or this disqualification, what will happen is that persons of the Japanese race in every other part of Canada will vote except in the province of British Columbia. Therefore, if we delete this clause, regardless of what happens to the order in council, those people, wherever they reside, if they are otherwise qualified will be allowed to vote. I just want to point that out.

I should like Mr. Mutch to feel that I greatly appreciate the step he has taken in this matter. I am not finding fault with him at all. As a matter of fact, it is a real effort to bring an end to this injustice.

The CHAIRMAN: It has been suggested by the draftsmen we can possibly improve the manner of carrying out this amendment. Perhaps Mr. Mutch would approve if we added this as a proviso to paragraph (i) rather than as a separate section of section 14. It would simply be stated that provided, however, this subsection shall be repealed as of—

Mr. MUTCH: Will be repealed effective this date?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. MUTCH: It seems to me that is probably a little less cumbersome.

The CHAIRMAN: May we leave it this way; when I ask for the vote everyone in the committee knows what we intend to effect, whether we write it as a separate section to 14 or whether we add it to the present subsection (i). So long as we have it in acceptable form to the law clerk, I suppose it will be all right.

Mr. MUTCH: It is a matter of simplifying the thing. The effect of that suggestion will be to render this clause inoperative. It is a matter of phraseology. The law officers of the Crown can do justice to it. The principle is not changed.

The CHAIRMAN: Will subsection (2) as amended carry, either with the additional section (8) or simply with the addition to those words in subsection (2)?

Carried.

Subsection (3) repealed certain sections in section 14.

Mr. MACINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. Zaplitny had an amendment to paragraph (a) of subsection (6).

The CHAIRMAN: Which do you mean?

Mr. MACINNIS: In section 6.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: The amendment I have is identical to the one moved by Mr. McKay, I believe, last year in connection with the age at which persons may vote. I was going to wait until we had finished with the subject matter with which we are dealing.

If it is in order, I should like to move that section 14, subsection (1), (a) of the Dominion Elections Act, as amended by section 6, subsection (1) of bill 198, be amended by deleting from line 10 the words "twenty-one" and substituting therefor the word "eighteen."

Now, I am not going to repeat the argument put forward last year except to say that since the committee sat last year we have found no reason for changing our mind on the subject. We still feel persons of the age of eighteen, in these days, are qualified to vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I take it the committee will give Mr. Zaplitny leave to revert to the item we have passed for the purpose of making his motion?

Mr. MUTCH: We might as well do it here as in the House.