

the lists are to be made, they are made up entirely, and they are subjected to the same judicial review as now obtains in those towns and cities under provincial legislation.

I may add further—and this applies to the whole of this list making from coast to coast—that wherever the enumerators have the duty of making up lists they are permitted by the Act to use as a basis any lists already made up, so far as they can be used. Using these, so far as they go, as a basis, of course, is one thing, and making the lists complete is another thing.

Looking over the whole measure, so far as these list-making provisions are concerned, it has subjected the existing law to as little change as possible, and only where it is essential that such change should be made in order to get lists conforming to the franchise requirements of the Bill. Such is the spirit of the measure that there can be no lists for this contest that will not be, either before or after, in the method I have described, judicially revised.

I may add that the desire has been—and if the Bill does not fully carry out that desire, amendments to that end will be welcomed—that all provision for list-making shall be absolutely fair, and that no party advantage shall be taken. We have to make provision for the making of these lists within such reasonable time as will make the period of the election contest not unconscionably long. Consequently it is necessary, in the cities of Ontario particularly, that while we adopt the provincial plan, we make more expeditious the preparing of the list and the revision.

Subject to the necessity of not extending too long the turmoil and too far the expense of a contest, and, therefore, the necessity of bringing the list-making to an end as soon as could be done consistently with fairness and thoroughness, this Bill has, I think, omitted no safeguard.

I repeat, that the necessity of the Bill is brought upon us by the precipitation of a contest in time of war. That, in our judgment, necessitates the changes in the franchise which this Bill proposes. These changes necessitate provision for a method of making the lists where no lists at present are in existence that can be of any practical value in this contest, and to supplement lists where necessary, and only to that extent is there any change whatever.

The purpose of the Bill is to endeavour that this contest shall be conducted in such a way, and by such a method, as will do

[Mr. Meighen.]

justice to those to whom the best of justice must be done, namely, the defenders of our country; to see to it that the voice of Canada, as heard in this contest, shall express the real views of the Canadian people, and that such injustice as would be done by the present franchise to the best of our sons and to the nation itself, is repaired, so far as Parliament can repair it.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Does the Bill make any provision in regard to that class of people who may be known as conscientious objectors to military service?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, I said that we had endeavoured to frame the Bill on the principle that war service or the obligation of war service should be the foundation of war franchise, and, that principle has a bearing on that class of our population known as conscientious objectors. The Bill provides that all those exempted from military service by the section of the Military Service Act which applies to certain Doukhobor and Mennonite immigrants shall be disqualified for this contest, and also, that all others who have applied for and have not been refused exemption from combatant service in the war on conscientious grounds are disqualified from voting. If, of course, such men are refused they have the right to vote. The Bill further provides that any who vote in the contest shall not thereafter be entitled to exemption on conscientious grounds. It seems entirely unfair that those who, for reasons special to themselves, are freed entirely from the burden and sacrifice of this war, in so far as the real sacrifice of war goes, should have a say in deciding the character and turn the war may take.

The Bill goes further and provides that any who have been convicted of an offence under the Military Service Act shall thereafter for this election be disqualified.

I have now enumerated the main features of the legislation. I should have said that, as there are no lists in the unorganized districts of Ontario, it is deemed best that the unorganized districts of Ontario should have lists made up, on the same basis as the four western provinces.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Is there any provision as to the age limit for the women voters?

Mr. MEIGHEN: All women voters must be as to age, race and residence, qualified in accordance with the laws of the provinces where they reside.

Mr. GLASS: I should like to ask the minister if any provision has been made in