

office of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and another in that of the revising officer. But there is no authority for anyone to interfere with these lists after they are printed, or to put a name on or off the list. Of course, it would not do to give such authority after the list was printed and the elections coming on. The only true way to proceed is that, so soon as the printed list is printed, the proof should be sent to the revising officer to be revised, and the corrected proof returned to the printing office and afterwards copies of the corrected list should be sent out and distributed. It would never do to leave power with respect to names in the hands of any official, for additional names might be inserted on the list and no one be the wiser. If the official were compelled, before distributing the lists, to see that the copies were authentic, the whole trouble would be obviated. In some quarters of the country extraordinary names are found, including French and German, and it could not be expected that the proof-reader would be thoroughly accurate in regard to these, especially as the handwriting of some of the revising officers would not be perfectly legible, and, I repeat, the only remedy is to send the proofs back to the revising officer for final revision before he certifies to the printed list.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I am willing to adopt the suggestion, that before copies are distributed they should be verified.

Mr. CAMPBELL. It is a question as to whether we have more confidence in the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, or in the revising officer. I would sooner trust the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery than the revising officer, as regards the county which I represent.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. COLTER. When the House rose at six o'clock, I was about to direct the attention of the Committee to the propriety of sending, under this sub-section 6 of the Act, the lists, not only to the revising officer, but also to the member for the riding, and to the defeated candidate, as well. I believe that the Minister of Justice has consented to accept this suggestion. I would also suggest that when the lists are finally printed, they shall be numbered consecutively from first to the last, in each polling sub-division. This, I believe, would reduce the chances of typographical errors occurring, because the total number for each polling sub-division could be very easily ascertained, if this rule were followed out, whereas mistakes might occur if they were not numbered consecutively.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I propose to add a sub-section:

"7. A copy of the list so printed shall be sent to each member of the House of Commons for the electoral district, and one copy to each of the defeated candidates for such electoral district."

Amendment agreed to.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I was spoken to by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Choquette), who had a notice on the paper, as to errors in notices, and I have arranged with him an amendment which may be added as sub-section 3 to section 20 of the Act, relating to what shall be done at the final revision. I propose this subsection to meet his views:

"No application to add or remove a name shall be dismissed on account of error in the name or surname, or designation, mentioned therein, provided such error is corrected on or before the final revision, and provided that the revising officer is satisfied that the application was reasonably certain, and that the person intended to be named was not misled by such error."

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. CASEY,

Mr. DAWSON. The reason for this amendment, which I now suggest, is that the Indians live a great deal in common, and having a claim on the same location, consider they all have a right to vote on it. This will simplify the law by making them get location tickets, and save the revising officers a great deal of trouble in deciding what Indians shall vote on the land.

Mr. EDGAR. This does not disfranchise any Indians?

Mr. DAWSON. No, it does not alter the law; it only saves dispute.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Who grants the location ticket?

Mr. DAWSON. The agent gives them location tickets when they apply for them, and when the Indians decide among themselves who are entitled to the location tickets. The Indian Act of 1880 provides for that.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. As I understand it, the franchise is now conferred upon Indians who hold separate portions in the reserve, and the hon. gentleman requires that they shall hold location tickets for their separate holdings.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Do they get these location tickets as a matter of course, every year?

Mr. DAWSON. They do when they apply for them with the sanction of the band. The band sets aside a location, and then the tribe decides which Indian shall hold the location ticket.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The location ticket is given by the consent of the band, and that is an estate for life. At present, under the law, the Indians have to prove it. Instead of all that trouble, he is given his location ticket in his deed. It is a lease for life, with the consent of the band. He holds that in severalty as long as he lives. It is for the purpose of establishing beyond a doubt, that the Indian has a right to vote when he produces his title.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). It is the agent who grants the location ticket, or the Superintendent General on the recommendation of the agent.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Of course, but it must be by a solemn vote of the council.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The evidence that an Indian has been in possession of the lands for a long series of years is no evidence that he is entitled to vote?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No, because it has to be held in severalty. By permission, an Indian may live eight or ten years or more on his lot, but that is permissive. The council can move him and put another upon his land. The lands are held in common.

Mr. EDGAR. This matter, after all, is in the hands of the Superintendent General, because section 16 of the Indian Act provides that:

"No Indian shall be deemed to be lawfully in possession of any land in a reserve, unless he has been or is located for the same by the band, or council of the band, with the approval of the Superintendent General."

And the next section says that:

"When the Superintendent General approves of any location as aforesaid, he shall issue, in triplicate, a ticket granting a location title to such Indian."

So that, after all, the privilege of voting, if this amendment is made, will be granted only upon the issuing of the location ticket by the Superintendent General.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman knows that everything that is done until the Indians are enfranchised is done in their council, recommended by the local agent and approved by the Superintendent General, because they are under the guardianship of the law; but