

make a return of the stubs in order that they may be controlled? It would not be any more difficult for him to have the stubs and the certificates numbered than it would be in case of a person issuing cheques. The revising officer will have a book say containing a hundred blank certificates. He will issue these certificates to whoever they belong. He will keep track of them and then after the election is over it can be proven from these stubs to whom the certificates were given. We have no possible means, except through the revising officer's records of ascertaining during, or after the election, what number of certificates was given or to whom they were given. Of course during a controverted election, or in the case of proceedings before a court of justice it would be possible to have all the papers brought and thus find out to whom the certificates were granted; but such is not the object of the law. The object aimed is to make the machinery of the law intelligible to everybody. As it is now it is not and never will be, and no candidate will ever know how many certificates have been given.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Oh yes.

Mr. DENIS: How will he know?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Let me point out that in the first place there cannot be more than two for any one poll. That is definite. In the second place the revising officer is to sign every such certificate and mention thereon the date of its issue. It is required that:

—shall consecutively number every such certificate in the order of its issue.

That meets the third point my hon. friend has raised. Then the officer:

—shall not issue any such certificate in blank.

Now take the next subsection (3). It declares:

Every such certificate shall contain in writing the name of the person to whom it is issued, and shall state that such person is a qualified elector, the polling division in which he is entitled to vote, and, if he is a deputy returning officer, agent or poll clerk, the polling station for which he is appointed.

Now the next qualification:

No such certificate shall entitle any such deputy returning officer, poll clerk or agent to vote at such polling station unless he has been actually engaged as such thereat during the day of polling.

That is to identify. Now take the last subsection (7) which deals with the record in every case of a vote polled under the authority of this section:

[Mr. Denis.]

The poll clerk shall enter in the poll book, opposite the voter's name, in the column for remarks, a memorandum stating that the voter voted under certificate, giving the number of such certificate, and stating the particular office or position which the voter is filling at the polling station.

I submit that record is rather complete.

Mr. ROSS: Under the old Act I think these officials had to take the oath as a matter of course. Subsection 6 of section 53 of this Bill says:

—shall, if required, before voting, take the oath.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The old section required these officials to take the oath in form V. Subsection (6) requires the oath in Form U to be taken.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: A moment ago I said that the clause as drafted here was originally limited to Saskatchewan and Alberta. It was taken I think from the old section, 59.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I have got the old section here. It is as follows:

Any deputy returning officer, candidate, agent or poll clerk who belongs to a polling division other than the one at which he is employed on the polling day shall be permitted to vote at the polling station where he is so employed, provided he produces a certificate from the enumerator of the polling division to which he belongs that he is a qualified voter in such polling division, which certificate such enumerator shall give gratis to any qualified elector who is so stationed outside of his polling division.

2. Except in the Yukon Territory, in issuing such certificates, every enumerator—

(a) shall not issue more than three certificates for use in any one polling division to the agents of any candidate;

(b) shall mention on such certificate the date of issue and sign such certificate;

(c) shall number consecutively in the order of issue any such certificate; and,

(d) shall not issue in blank any such certificate.

3. Each such certificate, except in the Yukon Territory, shall contain in writing the name of the person to whom it is issued, and shall state that such person is a qualified elector, the polling division in which he is entitled to vote, and, if he is a deputy returning officer, agent or poll clerk, the polling station for which he is appointed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is section 144.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That is section 59. I read section 144 some time ago.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: Would it not be better that the returning officer should issue these certificates instead of the registrar? The registrar has completed his work. The certificates are generally asked for perhaps one or two days before the election, and at