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5th Session, 8th Parliament, 63 Victoria, 19

BILL

An Act to amend the Dominion Election Act by providing for use of Macdona voting machines instead of ballots.

First reading, February 15, 1900,

Mr. BRITTON.

OTTAWA
Printed by S. E. Dawson
Printer to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty
1100

An Act to amend the Dominion Elections Act by providing for use of Macdonald Voting Machines instead of ballots.

HER Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:-

- 1. In any election for a member of the House of Commons Voting 5 of Canada, the Governor in Council, may direct that in lieu of machines of instead of the ballot, the system of voting by means of an invention ballot. called the Macdonald voting machine, be adopted.
- 2. In such case the provisions of *The Dominion Elections* Certain ss. of Act, relating to voting by ballot, and being Sections, 28, 29, not to apply. 10 30, 31, 34, 38, 39, 40, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72 and 100, shall not apply, and the provisions following shall govern.
- 3. Whenever a poll has been granted, it shall be opened at Hours for the hour of nine of the clock in the forenoon and kept open 15 until five of the clock in the afternoon of the day fixed for holding it, and the votes at the several polling stations shall be given on that day, and by means of the Macdonald voting machine.

4. The voting machines referred to in the last preceding Macdonald machine to be 20 section, and elsewhere in this Act, shall be of the kind known used. as the Macdonald voting machine, patented in the Dominion of Canada under No. 57508.

The It shall be the duty of the returning officer to procure Names of candidates of the printed for each and every candidate, upon separate cards, to be affixed 25 the surname of the candidate, in reasonably large type, with to boxes. the name in full, place of residence and occupation of such candidate underneath in smaller type, and insert such cards in the frames provided on the lids of the boxes in such manner that each machine shall show in such frames the names of 30 each and all the candidates at such election, one card being in each frame.

6. It shall be the duty of the returning officer to test or Machines to cause to be tested the accuracy of the different machines, Notice to after which and after having the cards of the candidates candidates. 35 inserted in the frames as provided in the next preceding section, he shall appoint a time and place for the candidates to inspect the machines, and shall give to each and every candidate

forty-eight hours notice thereof, which notice may be in the form A in the schedule to this act, and may be given by posting the notice on the door of the place fixed for the nomination of candidates for each electoral division.

Inspection and testing of machines.

2. At the time and place appointed the returning officer shall produce all the machines to be used in such election and allow each of the candidates full opportunity to test the accuracy thereof, and if any inaccuracy or defect exists he shall forthwith remedy it, and he shall then in the presence of the candidates lock the boxes and place his seal thereon, with the 10 seals of such candidates as so desire, in such manner that no box can be opened without breaking such seals, and thereafter such seals shall not be broken until the deputy returning officer breaks them as hereinafter provided.

Duties of returning officer when poll is granted. Deputies.

7. On a poll being granted the returning officer shall—15 (a.) Appoint, by a commission under his hand in the form B in the schedule to this Act, one deputy returning officer for each polling district in the electoral district, who shall, before acting as such, take the oath of office in the form C in the schedule to this act;

List of voters.

(b.) Furnish each deputy returning officer with a copy of the list of voters in polling district for which he is appointed, such copy being first certified by himself or by the revising officer for such electoral district, or portion of an electoral district, in which such polling district is situate;

Voting machines. (c.) Deliver to each deputy returning officer, two days at least before the polling day, one voting machine locked and sealed, and the seal shall not be broken until immediately before the commencing of the poll;

Printed directions.

(d.) Furnish each deputy returning officer with at least 30 ten copies of printed directions in the form D in the schedule to this Act, for the guidance of voters in voting, which printed directions the deputy returning officer shall, before or at the opening of the poll, on the day of the polling cause to be posted up in some conspicuous places outside of the polling 35 station and also in each compartment of the polling station.

Where the poll shall be held, S. The poll when granted shall be held in each polling district in a room or building of convenient access, with an out side door for the admittance of the voters, and having, if possible, another door through which they may leave after hav-40 ing voted; and a compartment shall be made within the room, so arranged that each voter may be screened from observation and may without interference or interruption cast his vote.

Onth of secrecy.

9. One of the agents of each candidate, and in the absence of such agent one of the electors representing each candidate 45 if there is such elector, on being admitted to the polling station, shall take the oath to keep secret the names of the candidates for whom any of the voters has cast his vote in his presence as hereinafter required, which oath shall be in the form E in the schedule to this Act.

Opening the poll; showing, locking and sealing of voting box.

10. The deputy returning officer shall immediately before the opening of the poll break the seals, unlock and open the box, and allow the representatives of each candidate to see that the machine is in accurate working order, after which

he shall set the dials at zero and show the box to such persons as are present, and he shall then cover the dials, lock the box and place his seal upon it in such manner as to prevent it being opened without breaking the seal and he shall then 5 place the machine in position for the casting of votes.

- 11. Immediately after the machine is locked and placed in Calling voters. position, the deputy returning officer shall call upon the electors to vote.
- 12. Not more than one elector shall at any one time en-Regulations 10 ter the room where the poll is held, and each elector upon so for voting. entering shall declare his name, surname and addition, which shall be entered or recorded by the poll clerk in the poll book provided for the purpose, which shall be kept in form F in the schedule to this Act, and if the same are found on the 15 list of voters for the polling district of such polling station he shall receive from the deputy returning officer a voting pellet.

2. Such elector, if required by the deputy returning officer, Oath to be the poll clerk, one of the candidates, or one of their agents, taken by yoter if 20 or by any elector present, shall, before receiving the voting required, pellet, take the oath of qualification in the form G in the schedule to this Act, which oath the deputy returning officer and poll clerk are each hereby authorized to administer.

- 13. The elector, on receiving the voting pellet, shall forth- Mode of 25 with proceed into the voting compartment and shall deposit voting. the pellet in the circular opening through the lid of the box in the section containing the name of the candidate for whom he wishes to vote.
- 14. Immediately after the elector has deposited his pellet Duty of 30 he shall return into the presence of the deputy returning deputy returning deputy officer, and such officer shall forthwith turn the shaft or crank officer. holding the voting pellet so that it may be released and enter the tube provided, thus causing a vote to be registered.
- 15. While the elector is in the voting compartment for the Secrecy in 35 purpose of casting his vote no other person shall be allowed casting vote. to enter the compartment or to be in any position from which he can observe the voter cast his vote.

- 16. Every elector shall vote without undue delay and shall Despatch to be used. quit the polling station so soon as the voting pellet shall have 40 been returned from the machine to the deputy returning officer.
- 17. The deputy returning officer, upon the application of Voter unable any voter who is unable to read or who is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause from voting in the manner 45 prescribed in this Act, shall assist such voter by causing his vote to be cast in the manner directed by such voter in the presence of the sworn agents of the candidates or of the sworn electors representing them in the polling station and of no other person, and the deputy returning officer shall require the 50 voter making such application before voting to make oath of

his incapacity to vote without such assistance in the form following, that is to say:

Oath of voter in such case.

"I solemnly swear (or, if he is one of the persons entitled by law to affirm in civil cases, solemnly affirm) that I am unable to read (or) that I am incapacitated by physical cause from voting without the assistance of the deputy returning officer."

Interpreter.

Whenever the deputy returning officer does not understand the language spoken by any such elector claiming to vote he shall swear an interpreter who shall be the means of communication between him and such elector with reference to all 10 matters required to enable such elector to vote.

Deputy to enter reasons for casting vote by him.

3. The deputy returning officer shall enter in the poll book opposite the names of the voters whose votes have been so cast, in addition to what is required in the next following section of this Act, the reason why each such vote was cast by him.

15

Entry of names of electors voting.

18. The poll clerk shall enter in the poll book to be kept by him as foresaid opposite the name of each elector the word "Voted" as soon as his pellet has passed through the machine, and he shall enter in the same book word "Sworn" or "Affirmed" opposite the name of each 20 elector to whom the oath of qualification has been administered, and the words "Refused to be sworn" or "Refused to affirm" opposite the name of each elector who has refused to take the oath or to affirm.

Voter refusing to be sworn.

19. No voter who has refused to take the oath of qualifica-25 tion mentioned in section 12 of this Act, when requested so to do, shall receive a voting pellet or be admitted to vote.

Elector in whose name anathe has proviously voted.

20. If a person representing himself to be a particular elector named in the list of voters applies for a voting pellet after another person has voted as such elector, the applicant, upon 30 taking the oath in the form II in the schedule to this Act, and otherwise establishing his identity to the satisfaction of the deputy returning officer, shall be entitled to vote as any other elector.

Entry in poll book.

2. The name of such voter shall be entered in the poll book 35 and a note shall be made of his having voted under this section, and of the oath of qualification having been required and made, as well as of any other objections made on behalf of any and which of the candidates.

D. R. O. to prepare a statement of

21. Immediately after the close of the poll, the deputy 40 returning officer shall, in the presence of the poll clerk and votes cast, etc. the candidates or their agents, and if the candidates or their agents or any of them are absent then in the presence of such if any of them as are present and of at least three electors, open the box, first dropping the stop bar and locking it down, 45 and read off and make a statement of the numbers shown on the dials, placing opposite the name of each candidate the number shown on the dial of the register attached to the tube placed under the opening in the section containing the name of such candidate; such statement shall then be signed by the 50 deputy returning officer, the poll clerk, and such of the candidates or their electors or agents as are present and desire to sign it, and he shall make and keep a copy of such statement

Statement, etc., to be inclosed in voting box.

and inclose in the box the original thereof, together with the list of voters used by him, the poll book and a certificate in such poll book, immediately following the name of the person last entered on such poll book as having voted or applied for 5 a votting pellet, of the total number of persons who voted, and shall inclose in the box such other lists and documents as have been used at such election.

2. The box shall then be locked and sealed, and shall be Delivery of forthwith delivered by the deputy returning officer to the re- R. O. etc.

10 turning officer or the election clerk, who shall receive it, or to one or more persons specially appointed for that purpose by the returning officer, and such person or persons shall, on Oath of person delivering the boxes to the returning officer, take the oath in delivering box. the form I in the schedule to this Act.

3. The deputy returning officer and the poll clerk shall the ball 15 respectively take the oaths in the forms J and K in the statement. schedule to this Act, which oaths shall be annexed to the statement above mentioned.

22. The several deputy returning officers, on being requested Certificates to 20 so to do, shall deliver to each of the candidates or their agents, candidates. or, in the absence of such candidates or agents, to the electors present representing the candidates, a certificate of the number of votes given for each candidate; and they shall also forthwith after the close of the poll mail to each candidate by 25 registered letter to his proper address a like certificate.

23. The returning officer, at the place, day and time ap-Summing pointed by his proclamation, and after having received all the by R. O. machines, shall proceed to open the boxes in the presence of the election clerk, the candidates or their representatives if 30 present, or of at least two electors if the candidates or their representatives are not present, and to add together the number of votes given for each candidate from the statements contained in the several boxes returned by the deputy returning officers of the votes certified by them.

2 The candidate who, on the summing up of the votes, is Declaration found to have a majority of votes, shall be then declared elected. thereon.

24. If the voting machines are not all returned on the day Adjournment fixed for adding up the number of votes given to the several boxes missing. candidates, the returning officer shall adjourn the proceedings 40 to a subsequent day, such subsequent day, not being more than a week later than the day originally fixed for the purpose of adding up the votes.

2. In case any deputy returning officer has not duly inclosed Or if D. R. O. in the box of the voting machine the said statement of the has not inclosed 45 votes certified by him as required by this Act, or if for any statement in other cause the said returning officer cannot at the day and voting box. hour appointed by him for that purpose, ascertain the exact number of votes given for each candidate, the returning officer may thereupon adjourn to a future day and hour the said

50 summing up the number of votes given for each candidate, and so from time to time, such adjournment or adjournments not in the aggregate to exceed two weeks.

Provision in case of loss of voting machine.

25. If the machines or any of them have been destroyed, lost, or for any other reason are not forthcoming within the delay fixed as in subsection of the next preceding section provided, the returning officer shall ascertain the cause of the disappearance of such machines and shall call on each of the 5 deputy returning officers whose boxes are missing, or on any other person having them, for the list, statements and certificates, or copies of the lists, statements and certificates, of the number of votes given to each candidate required by this Act,—the whole verified on oath, which oath the returning 10 officer is hereby authorized to administer; and if such lists or statements or any of them, or copies thereof, cannot be obtained he shall ascertain by such evidence as he is able to obtain the total number given to each candidate at the several polling places, and to that end may summon any such deputy 15 returning officer, his poll clerk, or any other person to appear before him at a day and hour to be named by him and to bring all necessary papers and documents with him, of which day and hour, and of the intended proceedings, the candidate shall have due notice, and the said returning officer may then and 20 there examine on oath the said deputy returning officer, the said poll clerk, or any other person, respecting the matter in question.

In case O. R. O. has not furnished statement of votes registered.

2. In case of an adjournment by reason of any deputy returning officer not having placed in the box of the voting machine 25 a certificate of the votes registered, the returning officer shall in the meantime use all reasonable efforts to ascertain the exact number of votes given for each candidate at the polling district of such deputy returning officer, and to that end shall have the powers set out in the next preceding subsection.

3. In any case arising under this section the returning officer

R. O. to return candidate appearing to have majority, and report special circumstancies.

votes, and shall mention specially in his report to be sent with the return, the circumstances accompanying the disappearance of the voting machines, or the want of any certificate as afore-35 said and the mode by which he ascertained the number of votes given to each candidate.

4. Any person refusing or neglecting to attend on the sum-

shall return the candidate appearing to have the majority of

Punishment of refusal to testify.

4. Any person refusing or neglecting to attend on the summons of the returning officer issued under this section, shall be guilty of an indictable offence and punishable accordingly.

Return of candidate.

26. The returning officer shall, immediately after the sixth day after the final addition by him under section 23, or the ascertainment by him under section 24, of the number of votes given for each candidate, transmit his return to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery that the candidate having the largest 45 number of votes has been duly elected, and shall forward to each of the respective candidates a duplicate or copy thereof, and such return shall be in the form L in the schedule to this Act.

Form of return.

Report by R. O.

2. The returning officer shall accompany his return to the 50 Clerk of the Crown in Chancery with a report of his proceedings, in which report he shall make any observation he thinks proper as to the state of the voting machines or documents as received by him.

Certain documents to necompany return.

3. The returning officer shall also transmit to the Clerk of 55 the Crown in Chancery with his return the certificates of the several deputy returning officers hereinbefore referred to,

together with the lists of the voters and the poll books used in the several polling districts, and all other lists and documents used or required at such election, or which have been transmitted to him by the deputy returning officers.

4. Such return and report shall be sent through the Post How sent.

Office, after being registered.

27. Every officer, clerk and agent in attendance at a polling secrecy of place shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the the voting. voting at such polling place, and no such officer, clerk or 10 agent shall, before the poll is closed, communicate to any person

any information as to whether any person on the list of voters has or has not made application to vote, or voted, at that

polling place.

2. No officer, clerk, agent or other person shall interfere with Interfering 15 or attempt to interfere with a voter when casting his vote, or when casting otherwise attempt to obtain at the polling place information his vote. as to the candidate for whom any voter at such polling place is about to vote or has voted.

4. Every one who violates any of the provisions of this Punishment 20 section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two hundred for contravendollars, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour, in default of payment of. such penalty.

28. Every one who—

Offences and

(a) Fraudulently puts into any voting machine any pellet Using other than the pellet which he is authorized by law to put in, unauthorized or fraudulently uses the pellets with which he is provided or pellets. other pellets, to vote for more candidates than can be lawfully elected:

(b.) Fraudulently takes out of the polling place any voting Fraudulently pellet in use at such polling place;

(c) Without due authority destroys, takes, opens or other-Interferance wise injures, obstructs or interferes with any voting machine with voting then in use for the purpose of election;

(d.) Applies for a voting pellet in the name of some other Applying for person, whether that name is of a person living or dead, or of in the name of a fictitious person, or, having voted once, applies again for a another, etc. voting pellet; but this provision is not to be construed as including a person who applies for such voting pellet believing 40 that he is the person intended by the name entered on the list

of electors in respect of which he so applies, or-(e.) Attempts to commit any offence specified in this sec-Attempts.

tion.~ Is guilty of an indictable offence and shall, if he is a return- To be 45 ing officer or other officer engaged at the election, be liable to a indictable. fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for any term less than two years, with or without hard labour, in default of such fine, and if he is any other person, to a fine Punishment. not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for any

50 term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour, in default of paying such fine.

29. In the event of any machine becoming obstructed from Provision in any cause, or otherwise failing to work, the deputy returning case voting officer, in the presence of an agent of each candidate, shall to work.

break the seal, unlock and open the box, and remove the cause of the obstruction, but he shall not uncover the face of the dials; and he shall then relock and reseal the box and proceed with the polling.

SCHEDULE OF FORMS.

A .- (Section 6.)

Notice to inspect voting machines.

Take notice that the voting machines for use in the election for the electoral district of , will be open for inspection at , on , the day of A.D. 19 , at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Returning officer.

B.—(Section 7.)

Commission of a deputy returning officer.

To G. R. (insert his legal addition and residence).

Know you that in my capacity of returning officer for the electoral district of , I do hereby appoint you for the of the said electoral district polling district number , there to take the votes of the electors by means of the Macdonald voting machine according to law, at the polling station to be by you opened and kept for that purpose, and you are hereby authorized and required to open and hold the poll of such election for the said polling district on the at nine o'clock in the forenoon day of at there describe particularly the place in which the poll is to be held) and there to keep the said poll open during the hours prescribed by law and to take at the said polling place by means of the Macdonald voting machine, in the manner by law provided, the votes of the electors voting at the said polling place, and after ascertaining the number of votes given and performing the other duties required of you by law, to return to me forthwith the voting machine, having the box sealed with your seal and inclosing the list of voters, poll book, your certificate of the result of the poll and other documents required by law with this commission.

Given under my hand at this day of in the year 18.

(Signature.)

Returning officer.

D .-- (Section 7.)

Directions for the guidance of electors in voting.

The elector will receive from the deputy returning officer a voting pellet; with this he will go into the voting compartment and deposit the pellet in the circular hole through the lid in the box, in the section containing the name of the candidate for whom he wishes to vote.

The pellet remains as the elector places it until he returns from the voting compartment, when the deputy returning officer turns the crank provided, and the vote is duly registered.

If the voter fraudulenty puts anything but the pellet provided into the machine he will be subject to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months with or without hard labour.

E.—(Section 9.)

Oath of agent of a candidate or of elector representing a candidate.

I the undersigned G. H. agent (or elector representing)
one of the candidates for the electoral district of
solemnly swear (or, if he is one of the persons
entitled by law to affirm in civil cases, solemnly affirm) that I
will keep secret the names of the candidates for whom any of
the voters at the polling station in the polling district No.
casts his vote in my presence at this election
So help me God.

(Signature)

Sworn (or affirmed) before me at A.D. 18.

this day of

Returning officer or Justice of the Peace.

I .- (Section 21.)

Oath of messenger sent to collect the voting machines.

returning officer for the electoral district of in the Province of do solemnly swear (or, if he is one of the persons permitted by law to affirm in civil cases, solemnly affirm) that the several voting machines to the number of now delived by me to the said returning officer have been handed to me by the several deputy returning officers at the present election for the said electoral district (or by here insert the names of the deputy returning officers who have delivered the said boxes) that they have not been opened by me or any other person and that they are in the same state as they were when 29—2

they came into my possession (if any change has taken place the deponent shall vary his deposition by fully stating the circumstances.)

(Signature)

Sworn (or affirmed) and subscribed before me at this day of A.D. 18

Justice of the Peace, or Returning officer, or Deputy returning officer.

J.—(Section 21.)

Oath of the deputy returning officer after the closing of the poll.

I the undersigned deputy returning officer for the polling district No. of the electoral district of do solemuly swear (or, if he is one of the persons permitted by law to affirm in civil cases, solemnly affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the poll book kept for the said polling district under my direction hath been so kept correctly, and that the total number of votes polled in the said poll book and that to the best of my knowledge and belief it contains a true and exact record of the votes given at the polling station in the said polling district, as the said votes were taken thereat, that I have faithfully performed all duties required of me by law and that the report, poll book and other documents required by law to be returned by me to the returning officer, have been faithfully and truly prepared and placed within the box of the voting machine as this oath (or affirmation) will be, to the end that the said voting machine may be transmitted to the returning officer according to law.

Sworn before me at this

(Signature)
Deputy returning officer.
in the County of
day of 18.
(Signature)
Justice of peace
or Returning officer
or poll clerk.