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DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN WHAT ACT REALLY MEANS

House of Commons Spent Yesterday Going Over Franchise Bill—The Liberal Members Compare It With the Bulky Dominion Elections Act—Great Powers Will be Put in the Hands of Unscrupulous Enumerators.

Ottawa, Sept. 11. — With parliament definitely committed through the brute force majority and the closure steam roller to the principle of the government's franchise bill with its class enfranchising and disfranchising provisions, Liberals in parliament today devoted the limited time at their disposal before the gag is again applied in trying to find out just what the bill means in detail. Although the are fourteen printed pages in the measure there are only four clauses, thus making the application of closure a little more speedy than if it had been divided up into moer clauses, each one of which would have to be discussed at something like reasonable length in the committee stage before the closure notice could be given. Knowing that the axe would fall at any moment strictly limiting further discussion of each clause, the opposition in the commons today endeavored to cover as much ground as possible and to obtain as much information as possible as to what the act really meant, particularly in regard to the machinery provided for the preparation of the new Dominion lists.

Understanding of the complicated details of the bill was made more difficult because it is printed without any marginal notes or explanatory references to the clauses of the Dominion Elections Act which it amends, these clauses being referred to simply by numbers. Consequently the members had to work out the meaning of each amendment by studiously comparing the new measure with the bulky Dominion Elections Act, and in the brief time at their disposal since the bill was printed a clear idea of exactly what the new machinery involves was almost impossible.

Apart from the further consideration of the general question as to the enfranchisement of the female next of kin of overseas soldiers and the disfranchisement of citizens of alien enemy birth, attention was centred today on the particular parts of the measure dealing with the arbitrary powers of the enumerators to add or strike off names from the present provincial lists. It was pointed out that these enumerators who would almost undoubtedly be partisan appointees would be likely to apply their powers so as to enfranchise as many women voters as possible who would be likely to vote for the government and to disfranchise as many aliens as possible known to be political supporters of the opposition. The enumerators are required under the bill to post the new lists ten days before polling, the shortness of time between posting and polling making it extremely difficult for candidates to make any thorough canvass of the amended lists. Furthermore, no appeal is allowed from the decisions of the enumerators, although on polling day any woman whose name has been added to the lists may be allowed a tentative vote on certificate but the vote is counted only in case of a general recount for the constituency and on being allowed by the recount judge. Similarly any "conscientious objector" or any one declared by the enumerator to be of alien enemy birth and not naturalized prior to March 31, 1902, may also vote, but the vote, too, goes into the "tied" class.

The powers that these provisions put into the hands of unscrupulous enumerators was duly emphasized by the opposition today.

The suggestion was made by Hon. Geo. P. Graham, Duncan Ross, F. B. Carvell and others that public confidence in the honest working out of the act might be secured and proper safeguards supplied by having the new lists prepared by the present municipal machinery, through municipal clerks, etc., and by providing some method of appeal before polling day instead of leaving the whole machinery as at present contemplated arbitrarily in the hands of partisan enumerators for each polling sub-division.

The secretary of state promised to consider the suggestions made, but little hope was held out for any amendments along the lines suggested.

Immediately upon the opening of the house this afternoon, the prime minister moved the house into committee on the war-time elections bill.

Hon. Arthur Meighen stated in reply to W. E. Knowles of Moose Jaw, that it had not been contemplated that the military voters' act would apply to

by-elections although legally it would. Mr. Knowles pointed out that almost invariably there were by-elections after a general election. New ministers would have to go back to their constituencies for re-election.

Mr. Meighen said it was hoped to avoid the tremendous task of holding by-elections in war time.

"The best way would be not to have any ministers defeated," he said humorously.

"Better put that in the act," suggested Hon. Charles Murphy.

Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Day will fall on Monday, October 8. This was the official declaration of the secretary of state department given out today. Owing to some misunderstanding on the part of labor newspaper men, it was announced in many of the papers that Thanksgiving Day would be on October 1. However, the official statement of the state department shows this to have been an error.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier inquired as to the exact term "complete demobilization."

Mr. Meighen replied that to his mind, complete demobilization took place when all the men were released from military obligations. However, he would secure the legal definition.

Dr. Neely of Humboldt, asked that the government enlarge the scope of the franchise further.

Naturalization difficulties, he said, should not stand in the way of a more complete franchise to women. By this legislation many women who were British born and engaged in war work would be shut out.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said that as far as he could see, one purpose of the measure was to give women the vote on the basis of service and not so much because they would represent the men at the front.

Hon. Arthur Meighen — "For both reasons."

Mr. Pugsley thought that the latter was the real reason. Therefore women who had given valuable service at home should be enfranchised. The premier, he said, had declared, that the provisions of the naturalization law were an obstacle to doing this. But surely this difficulty could be overcome. Mr. Pugsley went on to say that the premier had placed himself on record as being in favor of granting the suffrage to all women and had even moved an amendment that this matter be considered by parliament before an election. Now, however, the premier saw a fanciful reason for delay. Personally he thought that women should be given the vote before the close of the present session. If all Canadian women could not be enfranchised at any rate the vote should be given to British-born women.

ERROR AS TO THE NUMBER OF SUBS SUNK

Washington, Sept. 12. — Secretary of the Navy Daniels, announced late yesterday that a typographical error in the cablegram describing the encounter between the steamer Westwego and hostile submarines had made it appear that six submarines had been sunk, and that in fact the report said one of the submarines probably had been destroyed.

Secretary Daniels issued the following statement:

"My attention has just been called to a serious error made in transmitting the report of the attack made on the Westwego and other vessels. I gave the report to the press this morning as it was presented to me, stating that 'two of the steamers attacked were struck and probably all of the submarines were lost.' The cablegram, I find, stated that one of the submarines probably was lost."

UNWRITTEN LAW IS RECOGNIZED

London, Sept. 12. — Lieut. Douglas Malcolm, who was being tried for the murder of Anton Baumberg, a pseud count, was yesterday found not guilty

NO EXHIBITION THIS FALL

But in our store may be seen two interesting exhibits, which are worthy of attention.

In one compartment is an exhibit of

OSTERMOOR MATTRESSES

As is well known, we hold the exclusive agency in this locality for these celebrated mattresses, the world's standard.

In the adjoining compartment are shown several

HOOSIER KITCHEN CABINETS

As in the case of the Ostermoor Mattress, we have the exclusive agency. The superiority of the Hoosier over all other cabinets has been many times demonstrated.

Come in and investigate these two standard articles, which should be found in every home.

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Maple Leaf Paint

the Paint that has made good because it's made good. Quality counts, and every can of this high grade Paint is guaranteed.

Fall Painting is the most effective. Painting is usually done in the spring, through custom. If you have not done so, you cannot afford to let your buildings go unprotected. After the summer sun has dried the surface the pores of the wood are open and most receptive of the preserving coat. You should paint this fall as a matter of economy.

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Visit Halifax

September 12th to 20th

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION DATES

Never in the history of the province was a visit to the Ancient Capital more interesting than at present, with the thousands of soldiers, His Majesty's Warships and the scores of neutral ships lying at anchor in Bedford Basin.

All the leading features that have characterized the Annual Fair in the past will be in evidence, together with many new ones.

Particulars announced later. Reserve these dates.

September 12th to 20th

M. McF. HALL

Manager and Secretary,

P. O. Box 339.

HALIFAX

at the Old Bailey police court. The case which had been characterized as a "dream of passion" was the first to be tried here in the "unwritten law" was the sole defense.

A coroner's jury had returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide" after hearing Lieut. Malcolm's plea that he had killed Baumberg "in defense of his wife's honor." The case was one of the most sensational seen in London in many years.

Peter Look, 203, is rounding to. He made Colleen go in 2.05 at Hamline.

Crozier will drive Major Woolworth, 2.05 1/4, the balance of the season.

Galeton, 2.10 1/4, is something of a wonder. What a trotter he would be if sound.

The Athol pacer Baron Atta set the Chatham, N. Y., track record at 2.10 1/4 last week.