

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, considered in committee and reported.

NORTHWEST IRRIGATION ACT.

Bill (No. 161) to amend the Northwest Irrigation Act, 1898—Mr. Oliver—read the second time, and House went into committee thereon.

Mr. OLIVER. The Act provides that a certain officer designated shall be our officer for administering the Irrigation Act. He is at present an officer of the local government at Regina. We utilize him for that purpose, and pay part of his salary. As the province of Saskatchewan contains very little area requiring irrigation, it would not be suitable to have an officer of the Saskatchewan administration act for us in administering the Act, and this is merely to provide that we may appoint an officer resident in Alberta.

Bill reported.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 12.40 a.m., Wednesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, July 5, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 189) further to amend the Dominion Elections Act, 1900. He said: The purport of the Bill is to add two sections, 118a and 118b, to the Act. Section 118 of the Dominion Elections Act provides:

Any person who, before or during an election knowingly publishes a false statement of the withdrawal of a candidate at such election, for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of another candidate, is guilty of an unlawful act, and shall also forfeit the sum of one hundred dollars to any person who sues therefor, with costs.

The section which I propose to add as 118a is as follows:

Any person who, before or during an election knowingly prints, publishes, posts, circulates, or distributes any written or printed statement falsely purporting to be made by or on behalf of a candidate at such election, for the purpose of prejudicially affecting the election of such candidate, or of promoting or procuring the election of another candidate, is guilty of an unlawful act, and shall also forfeit the sum of two hundred dollars to any person who sues therefor, with costs.

Mr. FISHER.

The object of this is to prevent an offence which is of a very old character, but one which is sometimes particularly odious—the trick of sending out circulars and documents purporting to be issued on behalf of the candidate when, as a matter of fact, they are sent abroad for the purpose of injuring the prospects of his election. In a recent election in the province of Ontario charges and counter-charges have been made that this has been done. Those who are associated with the political party to which I belong claim that circulars of this kind purporting to emanate from the Conservative candidate were sent abroad, with which the Conservative candidate and his committees had no connection whatever. Whatever may be the truth of these charges I do not know. It is desirable, however, it seems to me, that some provision of this kind, which is quite in line with section 118 of the Act, should be placed on the statute-book; and, although it is late in the session, I bring this to the attention of the government in the hope that they may see fit to adopt either this section or some section substantially the same, and have it placed on the revised statutes of Canada in the revision that is now being made. The other clause which I am moving, section 118b, is taken almost verbatim from a provision in the English Elections Act. It is as follows:

Every bill, circular, placard, or poster, having reference to an election shall bear on the face thereof the name and address of the printer and publisher thereof, and any person printing, publishing, posting, circulating or distributing, or causing to be printed, published, posted, circulated, or distributed, any such bill, circular, placard or poster as aforesaid which fails to bear upon the face thereof the name and address of the printer and publisher is guilty of an unlawful act, and shall also forfeit the sum of two hundred dollars to any person who sues therefor, with costs.

The object of this is not only to carry out the intent of section 118a, to which I have just referred, but it is also for the purpose of having some responsible person to whom recourse can be had in case false and libellous statements are published and circulated about any candidate at any election. It is desirable, I think, to follow the British practice in that regard, and to prohibit the circulation of any bills, circulars, and so forth, unless they bear upon them the imprint of the person who has printed them, and who, in the first place, at least would be responsible. Section 2 of the Bill which I am introducing is simply a verbal amendment to section 119, which is made necessary by the insertion of section 118a and section 118b.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CIRCULATION OF FOREIGN COIN.

Mr. BERGERON. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to ask the Min-