

know whether by chance or not, but a number of objections which have been raised by gentlemen on this side were found to present themselves in that election. Gentlemen from Manitoba, gentlemen from East Assiniboia, with long classic names, found their way in there. Nobody had ever seen them before or heard of them as living in that part of the country. They walked up by hundreds. I am told, and under the section of the law which allowed them to present themselves without being registered they voted. Section 26 regarding the appointment of enumerators is rather vague, and does not state that these enumerators shall be residents of the polling subdivision in which they operate. Section 31 is loosely drawn, it reads :

If any enumerator at any time after posting up any voters' list, and before the polling day, is fully satisfied, from representations made to him by any creditable person, that the name of any qualified voter has been omitted—

It shall be put on, and conversely, it shall be struck off.

If the enumerator, in like manner, is fully satisfied that there is on the list the name of any person who is not qualified as a voter in such polling division, he may draw erasing lines through such name.

Mr. LAMONT. When was that passed ?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. In 1886. The law has always been bad. But in 1886 elections such as we now have carried on in this country were unknown in the Dominion of Canada. If the inference from my hon. friend's question is that this law was passed by a Conservative government and did duty for a Conservative government, he will search in vain to find any abuse of it under Conservative rule.

Mr. LAMONT. How is a man prejudiced by that section ? If his name is on the list, or if it is left off the list, it does not make any difference, because he can go to the poll and vote any way.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I am coming to that point. Section 34 provides for the posting of the notice. All the features in connection with the posting of the notice have been referred to by hon. gentlemen here, so that I will not dwell upon this section. Section 33 is as follows :

The deputy returning officer shall, while the poll is open, if required by any elector whose name is not on the voters' list, administer to such elector oath number one in the said form 'P'; and such oath having been taken, the deputy returning officer shall at once cause such elector's name to be added to the voters' list, with the word 'sworn' written thereafter.

The form of oath is as follows :

You do swear that you are a bona fide male resident and householder within this polling division of this electoral district, that you are of the full age of 21 years, that you are not an alien or an Indian, and that you have resided in this electoral district for at least twelve

Mr. SAM. HUGHES.

months immediately preceding the date of the issue of the writ for this election.

In the recent elections in the Northwest Territories a man could go and vote in any polling subdivision. All he had to do was to present himself at any polling subdivision. I can give my hon. friend any number of names throughout the Territories. I was told this by a number of deputy returning officers. A man could present himself at any polling subdivision and vote so long as he could claim that he had been a resident of the riding for twelve months. The instructions sent to the deputy returning officers were that they were to take the oath of any man and give any man a vote who would claim that he was a resident, not of the polling subdivision, but of the electoral district. That is an abuse against which I protest.

Mr. ADAMSON. Who was the returning officer ?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. It was some of the deputy returning officers who told me this.

Mr. ADAMSON. Which returning officers ?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. My word is all that the hon. gentleman should require to take here. He takes my word here. He will be good enough to remember that.

Mr. ADAMSON. We want to get the information.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The hon. gentleman has the information, and he will get a great deal more if he wants it.

Mr. ADAMSON. We want all the hon. gentleman can give.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The hon. gentleman, before the end of the session, will get all he wants.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. He wants to get it correctly.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. If the message boy of Monseigneur Sbarretti will keep quiet, we will be obliged.

Mr. LAMONT. Does the hon. gentleman contend that the section which he has just read, which provides that the deputy returning officer shall administer an oath to the elector and enter his name in the list, has led to abuses ?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I am showing what the practice was during the last election.

Mr. LAMONT. The hon. gentleman will surely give us some particulars.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The law is as I have read it :

The deputy returning officer shall, while the poll is open, if required by any elector whose name is not on the voters' list administer to such elector oath number one in the said form 'P'; and such oath having been taken, the