

It should read :

Until the first of July, 1906.

I think that might be found to work well if it were also provided :

Until the first of July, 1906, or until the parliament of Canada thereafter otherwise provides the qualification of voters, &c.

If it should happen that the local legislature did not in the meantime make provision, we then would not be helpless in any way. I was much impressed by the suggestion of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, who, as he is not a lawyer, asked me if I would mention this matter again. As I appreciate that the Minister of Justice desires to get this in the best possible shape, might I make a suggestion on my own behalf. I do not profess to be very familiar with the territorial law, but as far as I understand we are providing for the qualification of voters and the procedure governing elections. I was going to suggest at first that we should provide that the new provinces should be governed by the Dominion Elections Act, but the difficulty would be that there would be no Franchise Act to act as a basis. Might I suggest to the Minister of Justice the view that as to clause 6 it should be provided that so far as the qualification of voters is concerned it should be based upon the Franchise Act in force in the Northwest Territories, but that so far as the election proceedings are concerned they should be governed as in the other provinces by the Dominion Elections Act.

Mr. INGRAM. If I recollect aright they have no lists, and for my part I would not agree to have the local law adopted.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We had better let this clause remain in suspense and I will see how far I can go to adopt the Bill introduced last session.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Inasmuch as it is very difficult to get around large ridings such as those in the Territories, why not have nomination day two weeks before election day. For my part I think it would be advisable to make that provision apply to all Canada.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Oh, we get enough of it as it is in one week.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The trouble is that there is not enough time to get around with the notices in these large electoral divisions.

Mr. BARKER. Does the minister propose to consider whether he can apply section 5 of the Dominion Elections Act to section 6 of the Franchise Act?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. That is what is in contemplation with respect to section 6, but my trouble is that I cannot do that until there is a provincial franchise. The inten-

Mr. LENNOX.

tion was to adopt it when it does come into force.

Mr. BARKER. Will the hon. gentleman consider making it apply when it does come into force?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We could not for a moment entertain the idea that we could treat these provinces exceptionally with respect to their franchise; they must be in the same position as all the other provinces and come under section 5.

Mr. INGRAM. When Mr. Casgrain introduced his Bill last year he was simply dealing with existing conditions and had not in view the formation of these new provinces. Mr. Casgrain's Bill was brought up not only on the first of June last year, but also on the 14th of June, but because of the absence of Mr. Sifton, the Minister of Justice asked Mr. Casgrain to postpone the Bill. Mr. Casgrain agreed to let the Bill stand, but as it was the fault of the government that the Bill did not go on they agreed to take the Bill up at a later date.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Where is the evidence of that?

Mr. INGRAM. Here it is. The Minister of Justice said :

I think we ought to give my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) assurance that if he will agree to postpone it now another opportunity for the discussion of it will be allowed because the postponement of it is to suit our convenience.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Does that mean that I agreed to take the Bill up?

Mr. INGRAM (reading) :

Mr. CASGRAIN. Very well, on that understanding, I agree.

It never came up afterwards.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Was that my fault?

Mr. INGRAM. I will say this for the Minister of Justice, that when he makes agreements he generally stands by them and that was an agreement made between him and Mr. Casgrain.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. That does not say that I agreed to take the Bill up. I agreed that he should have an opportunity to take it up.

Mr. INGRAM. That is rather splitting hairs.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. No, that is ordinary English.

Mr. INGRAM. I do not want to convey the idea that the Minister of Justice was to take the Bill over as a government measure, but the understanding was that it would be taken up afterwards by permission of the government. It could not otherwise be considered, because the time for public Bills was over. With respect to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Qu'Ap-