

to go through in its present shape. The adoption of section six simply means that a Bill will be introduced in this parliament at the earliest opportunity providing for the desired amendment.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I quite appreciate the difficulties pointed out by my hon. friend but I would like him to suggest a more effective remedy than the one he has mentioned. Assuming that we were to make a franchise Act for the new province, that would be absolutely at variance with the principles which obtains in the other provinces. The principle that ought to apply to these Territories is that which we apply to the other provinces, namely, to allow the matter to be dealt with by the province after it is formed. If my hon. friend prefers to allow the matter to remain in abeyance, so as to consider the difficulty, I shall be glad to adopt any suggestion he may make to meet it.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Why not accept the franchise of the provinces?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. There is no provision for the meeting of the legislatures until six months after the new provinces are formed. Then there is no certainty that after they have met, they will make provisions for a franchise. They will not be under obligations to make any provisions for their election until after the first or second session. In the interval where will they be?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Why not make it read 'until such time as the new provinces establish their franchises.'

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Because when the new provinces have provided their local franchises, the principle applicable to all the other provinces will be applicable to them, and it will be the duty of this parliament to make it applicable.

Mr. BARKER. It appears to me that my hon. friend from Calgary (Mr. M. S. McCarthy) has referred to two possible evils in the present system; and we should not continue evils until a future date, if we can prevent them now. There were two matters referred to by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) when he introduced his Bill in 1904, which were not dealt with by parliament at that time, because the then Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) asked that the matter should be adjourned. That was equivalent to an admission that the subject required attention. Nothing however has been done since, and we are now practically declaring that these evils shall continue until another body shall provide something to the contrary. I am quite sure that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) will recognize the very great evil which was referred to in 1904. An official, called there

an enumerator, has power to issue any number of certificates—there is no limitation whatever—to enable people to vote in a district where they are not known. A man can get a certificate from the enumerator entitling him to vote 100 or 200 miles away, where nobody knows him and the officials at that polling booth simply take that certificate not knowing who the man is. Hundreds of the certificates may be issued because there is no possible check upon their issue and the result may be the election of a gentleman to this parliament who has no right whatever to sit here. It is an evil which everybody who knows anything about elections must recognize. The enumerator issues these certificates for the poll clerk, or an official of that kind, or an agent; and I suppose 'agent' is the most indefinite description of an individual we can possibly give. Who is to say who is and who is not an agent? That is left entirely to the enumerator who signs the certificate, and he can give these certificates without limitation. He can recognize any number of agents for a particular polling place. In our own law that evil has been guarded against because it is expressly provided that the corresponding official—the deputy returning officer—can only give two certificates for each party. He can give two certificates to agents for the Liberal candidate and two for the Conservative. That is the express limitation, but in the Territories there is no limitation whatever. Instead of two, he can give 200. It must be apparent to anybody that such a power in the Territories is practically putting into the hands of an unscrupulous enumerator the power to elect any person he chooses. There does not seem to be any question about the danger from this if we are to judge the officials conducting elections in the Northwest Territories by samples of the same class we have had in Ontario, I can only say that if you were to give to certain officials in Ontario, as we know them, the power given in the Territories, those officials could elect any man they chose. I would ask the Minister of Justice whether he considers it is right that we should continue for one hour such a state of things? I am talking in all seriousness.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I cannot conceive it possible that my hon. friend would admit that there are any men in Ontario who would do wrong.

Mr. BARKER. I am sorry to say that there are almost a majority of the people who support that sort of thing. Not quite a majority at the present time in Ontario, but a large minority who condoned that kind of thing for years. Not enumerators appointed for the moment, but officials holding responsible positions under the government of the province have been notoriously guilty in that respect.