

ing an election, and under the law as it now exists it takes practically three months to complete the lists, so that the amendment proposed will make provision for the use of the old lists if it is the desire of the party in power to order an election on short notice.

Registration Law Changed.

The law with respect to the registration of manhood suffrage votes is changed so that the Board of Registration instead of holding sessions within seven days after the date of the writ shall hold their last of four sittings not less than ten days before the date of the election. Mr. Hearst pointed out that the time now allowed was too short to make the necessary arrangements and the law was being honored in the breach.

The present law is also amended to provide that the Registration Board shall hold continuous sittings from 9 o'clock in the morning until 10 in the evening. Hitherto the hours of recess have been inconvenient, and occur at a time when a great many voters are unable to register. It is further provided that the Deputy Registrar shall keep in the registration booth a copy of the last revised voters' list, so that applicants shall be able to ascertain whether or not they are entitled to register.

When a Dominion election writ bears a date not more than six months after the date at which the last sittings for registration were concluded, a new registration shall not be required for the purpose of an election to the Legislative Assembly. Where the Dominion writ is dated not more than one year prior to the date of the last registration, it shall be within the power of the Lieut.-Governor in Council to say whether a new registration shall be necessary.

Another clause increases the fees of the Registrar.

Nomination of Candidates.

An important change is to be made in regard to the nomination of candidates. The amendment provides that the nominations shall be in writing, on a form to be signed by at least fifty duly qualified voters of the electoral district, and the candidate shall be nominated on a separate nomination paper. If the nominator is not present in person such absence shall be stated, and the nomination must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate to such nomination. If a request is made to the returning officer he shall make an examination of the nomination paper to ascertain if it is regular, and his certificate in writing shall be final, and the validity of the nomination shall not be open to question on any ground whatever.

In cities having a population of over 200,000, which means the city of Toronto, and in the ridings of East and West York, the polls shall be opened at 8 o'clock in the morning, instead of at 9 o'clock, and shall remain open until 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

STALLION ENROLLMENT ACT SOON TO BE AMENDED

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AT LAST FAVORS IMPROVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK.

Under legislation introduced by Hon. Jas. S. Duff, Minister of Agriculture, the improvement of live stock in the Province is to be secured by prohibiting anything but pure-bred stallions to be used for service after 1918. The stallion enrollment act is to be amended, requiring compulsory inspection by Government officers. The various classes of grade stallions are to be eliminated gradually, so that only pure-bred stock will be available after the year above named.

Another bill, to protect pure-bred stock, imposes a fine on the owner of any bull that runs "at large," which means that the animal must be attended when it is travelling on the highways or away from its home.

WHITNEY GOVERNMENT MISAPPLIES FUNDS

Bulk of \$5,000,000 Raised for Northern Ontario Development Was Used for Other Purposes—Liberal Whip Exposes Reprehensible Practices

Bond flotations by the Provincial Government were discussed by the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature yesterday. Mr. C. M. Bowman, Chief Liberal Whip, who was conducting the examination, ascertained from Mr. C. H. Sproule, Assistant Provincial Treasurer, that although loans were authorized by the Legislature for specific purposes, the department never actually "earmarked" the money, but the proceeds from the loans were placed to the credit of the consolidated revenue fund and used for general purposes.

Mr. Bowman's examination was principally directed towards the loan of \$5,000,000 authorized two years ago for Northern Ontario development. Of this authorized loan, \$4,006,000 has been raised, but only \$1,500,000 has been spent on New Ontario. Mr. Sproule was quite frank in his statement that the balance of the money had been used for any general purpose where a vote had been made by the House. Further questioned by Mr. Bowman, Mr. Sproule admitted that when the time came to pay this money back to the New Ontario fund an additional loan might have to be authorized to realize the amount.

A system of "paring" grants to rural public schools was discovered by Mr. Bowman during his examination of Mr. J. R. Humphreys of the Department of Education. In 1912, the witness stated, the rural public and separate schools earned \$80,000 more than the grant voted by the House, and this deficiency was made up by the Treasury Board. In 1913, however, the rural public and separate schools earned \$120,000 more than the grant. But this time the Treasury Board would not come to the relief of the Education Department. The result was that the department made "fish of one and flesh of another." The separate schools received their grant in full, and the public schools received only 72 per cent. of the

amount earned out of the grant. In other words, the rural public schools stood the entire amount of the deficiency, and while the separate schools, which had earned their part of the excess, were paid in full, the public schools had to bear the entire amount of the \$120,000 which all schools earned in excess of the grant. The total grant was \$400,000, but as the proportion of the excess chargeable against the separate schools was 7 per cent., it was thought that the public schools could absorb that amount.