

FINAL EFFORT TO LOAD DICE

Attempt to Get New Nova Scotia Lists Made Up by Partisan Enumerators

BLOCKED IN THE SENATE

But for a Time it Threatened to
Cause Long-drawn
Struggle. -

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)

Ottawa, Sept. 18.—A hitch which threatened to hold up prorogation and precipitate a bitter and long-drawn-out fight, extending possibly until Parliament dies by the effluxion of time eighteen days hence, occurred in the Senate to-day in connection with the franchise bill. A final high-handed attempt to make sure of stealing the election, in so far as Nova Scotia was concerned at any rate, has been perpetrated by the Government.

In the Senate this afternoon Senator Ross of Halifax moved an amendment providing that absolutely new lists shall be made up for Nova Scotia by the enumerators, who would of course be all partisan appointees, instead of keeping the present Provincial lists as the basis, as promised in the Commons by Premier Borden and Secretary of State Meighen. Liberal Senators promptly objected, and it was intimated that if the Government insisted on the amendment the fight would be a prolonged one in the Senate, and when the amendment went back to the Commons for consideration there would be a further strenuous and spectacular fight there which might be carried to lengths not relished by the Government, now anxious to secure immediate prorogation.

The situation developed quickly, and seeing trouble ahead the Government leader in the Senate adjourned the Chamber to give time for a conference which might work out some compromise.

Conference Suggests Compromise.

This conference was held to-night between representative Liberals and Conservatives of the Senate and Commons, and although no final decision was reached it is understood that a basis of compromise was suggested, which may be agreed upon at a further conference to be held at noon to-morrow.

This compromise is, in brief, that the Provincial lists in Nova Scotia shall be used as the basis for the Federal lists, but may be reopened to add or strike off any electors, qualified or disqualified, from April 1 last to September 1, the revision being done by revisers appointed by the Dis-

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trict Judges. Thus, the preparation of the lists would not be left entirely to the enumerators, whose only work would be to fulfill the same functions they have in other Provinces, namely, to add the names of the women voters and to strike off those of **alien enemy** nationality.

This compromise, suggested by Mr. A. K. Maclean, M.P., will probably be accepted by the Government, in order to prevent the threatened last-ditch stand of the incensed Liberals in both Houses, with its resultant effect on public opinion, and the possibility of having the whole bill killed by being talked out in the upper Chamber, where the closure does not yet apply.

Sinister Ross Amendment.

There are several sinister features about the amendment proposed on behalf of the Government by Senator Ross. In his original notice of motion he included the Province of New Brunswick as well as the Province of Nova Scotia as coming under the scope of the amendment providing for entirely new enumerators' lists. This afternoon he made the amendment apply only to Nova Scotia. The reason for this is that the New Brunswick lists are those prepared under the late Flemming Government, and may naturally be presumed to be as favorable as could be obtained for the Tory interests.

Final Loading of Dice.

As for Nova Scotia, Senator Ross contention was that the lists in that Province are finally revised by the Sheriffs, who are all Provincial Government appointees, and consequently, as he alleged, the Tories had not got a square deal. In this he was echoing the pleas which have been made upon Sir Robert Borden by Messrs. Davidson, M.P. for Annapolis, McCurdy of Queen's-Shelburne, and Douglas, the Conservative candidate in South Cape Breton, who have been agitating for this final reloading of the dice ever since the bill went through the Commons.

No Real Complaint Yet.

To properly understand the real condition of affairs, however, it is necessary only to say that the present system of preparing the lists in Nova Scotia has been in vogue since it was introduced in 1879 by the Thompson Conservative Administration, and that there has never been any real complaint that it has not worked satisfactorily to both parties. The issue as to unfairness of lists has never been a subject of any real contention in the Provincial Legislature, and in the past ten years there have not been more than a hundred appeals taken to the Sheriffs. The lists, as made up by the municipal authorities, have in nearly all cases been satisfactory, and there has been no necessity for further revision by the Sheriffs.

No Wonder Exception Taken.

Under the circumstances it was no wonder that the Liberals in Parliament took vigorous exception to substituting in Nova Scotia new enumerators' lists throughout for the Provincial lists prepared by municipal officers, who are about equally divided between Conservative and Liberal. The compromise suggested by Mr. Maclean cuts the ground from under the feet of the men who are pleading that the present lists are unfair, and there can be no valid objection to a final revision by men appointed by the District Judges.

It was reported late to-night that Sir Robert Borden realizes that he allowed himself to go too far in consenting to the introduction of Senator Ross' amendment, and will now accept the compromise amendment suggested by Mr. Maclean.