

Q. That is not what I have in mind. That simply is in the exercise of his discretion. What I think you had in mind was that there should be some check on his power of appointment by the government of the day—A. I would certainly think the appointment should come from the government on the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer. I do not know how far the idea formulated by me would meet the situation. I have made a list of the order in which I would make these appointments. First, the sheriff, whose office as such is situated within the electoral district and whose jurisdiction extends to the whole or a greater part of it.

Q. What about a case where there were two sheriffs?—A. Either of them would do.

*By Mr. McPherson:*

Q. The sheriff in my county would be the sheriff in Winnipeg who would have to handle four districts, because he takes in perhaps seven seats.—A. Then you have a sheriff whose office as such only extends to part of the district and not the whole of it; then the two registrars, then the sheriff whose office is situated outside the electoral district, but whose jurisdiction extends to any part of it; then the registrar of the same kind. Then the deputies of the sheriff and registrar, if they are not already election clerks, and then the city clerks, and the assessors. I did not put in the clerks of the courts. You could easily frame up a list of that kind. As a matter of fact, it does not matter; if it is wise to give the Chief Electoral Officer complete discretion, he could work it out along the same general lines.

*By Mr. Boys:*

Q. This is really a list of qualified persons, and if necessary you could appoint others?—A. Exactly.

*By Mr. Kennedy:*

Q. I understood you to say a little while ago that one of the difficulties in connection with the Chief Electoral officer appointing the returning officers is that the Chief Electoral Officer is here in Ottawa and does not know the men throughout the length and breadth of the country?—A. Yes.

Q. Could that not be overcome by selecting a deputy in each province who would have general local knowledge sufficient to appoint the returning officers?—A. I do not know how you would frame up the duties of the deputy, apart from that. What would he do besides selecting returning officers?

Q. He could assist the Chief Electoral Officer in respect to those things which the Chief Electoral Officer could not undertake for himself.—A. That is the only thing which the Chief Electoral Officer could not do conveniently.

Q. You mentioned a little while ago the appointment of certain individuals with certain classes of jobs in the provinces being selected as returning officers, leaving the discretion to the Chief Electoral Officer to recommend. Why go to the trouble of recommending to the Secretary of State, for instance? Why not give the Chief Electoral Officer the power to appoint and discharge?—A. I have no objection to that.

Q. And thereby saddle him with direct responsibility?—A. I think it would be a little unfair without giving him the right to appoint public officers.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You mean the right to compel public officers to act?—A. Yes.