

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Running from one hundred thousand up?—A. Yes. That was the class of cities with which I concerned myself.

Q. So that a list two years' old would have almost sixty-five per cent of changes within the two years?—A. I think that would not be far out.

*By Mr. Black (Yukon):*

Q. Part of the same thirty per cent might change twice?—A. Yes. I anticipated that sometime there might be an inquiry to ascertain whether there was any possible alternative system, and while I was Chief Electoral Officer, between the years 1923 and 1926, I made a study of possible alternatives, and I came to the conclusion that the most satisfactory alternative—which is not free from disadvantages—would be to have a complete list of all the voters maintained at Ottawa, using the post offices throughout the country as registry offices, open three hundred days in the year, and then my general idea was to give people who moved a six months' opportunity to register their changes of addresses. That is to say, that if they wanted to vote on a given list in a given polling division, they must have lived at that address in the polling division, which the list gave them, within six months of the election. Of course, that system is beautiful on a theoretical basis. It is inexpensive; it provides information which would be of very high value to a large number of governmental departments, and it has other corresponding theoretical advantages of that kind. It has, particularly having regard to the training of people in Canada, a very considerable disadvantage in that until the system had been in force for some little time there would probably be found to be a very large number—I do not say "a large proportion," because it is impossible to say what the proportion would be—but a very large number of people who were accustomed to have their names put on voters' lists without any intervention on their part and who would find themselves on election day on no list and therefore not able to vote, because it depends for its utility on having a closed system, as at the time the writs are issued, the lists are closed.

*By Mr. Hanson:*

Q. With the extension of the rural mail service and the closing of a large number of rural post offices and the sending out of the mail from incorporated towns—take the city of Fredericton: we have rural mail deliveries radiating to every point of the compass. It would be difficult to get lists made up in that way.—A. I provided for that in the scheme I laid out, because the postmasters could nominate persons, and my idea was that the rural mail postmasters themselves should have power to take these applications.

*By Mr. Kennedy:*

Q. Why should you, even with this system of permanent lists, cut off the registration on the day the writ was issued? Could you not provide registry offices?—A. Not usefully. The real utility of the list is that the candidates in the constituencies should know what they have to know. I mean that the present lists are satisfactory enough if you are going to work out your lists during the election campaign.

Q. Who should keep these lists up?—A. The arrangement I had in mind was an organization here to whom the applications would come in.

Q. An organization in the hands of the Chief Electoral Officer?—A. I do not know whether that is his function or not.

Q. Supposing we made that a function of the Chief Electoral Officer? If your officers were selected without regard to political persuasion, could we not depend on keeping the lists up?—A. I do not think there would be the