

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: We would have to eliminate that, because the provincial jurisdiction is such that a matter of that kind could only be arrived at when we had had a conference with the provinces, and so on.

WITNESS: That is correct.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: So, I think our study of the matter should be limited to the federal field. But it would be interesting if we could find, and I think you can get very considerable help from Mr. Coats and his chief of the census staff, if we could find what it costs Canada to take the quinquennial census in the prairie provinces and the decennial census for the whole of Canada, and the cost of carrying on our electoral machinery now. Taken together these might bring out costs pretty well up to the cost of the census bureau, because that functions continuously—not just one year, when you take a census it takes three or four years to compile the information after it has been taken—and a compilation of the cost of these services as now rendered in Canada when compared with the cost of the Australian system would I think show a much narrower margin of excess cost for Canada.

Mr. CAMERON: Would not registration do away with the necessity for taking a census?

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: It does not do that. The same officers do it.

*By Mr. Turgeon:*

Q. Do your costs there include the cost of compiling the census?—A. I rather doubt that. I quote the words of the Chief Electoral Officer:—

It may however serve your purposes to know that the whole cost of the Commonwealth electoral administration (including salaries and all other expenditure involved in the administration of the Commonwealth electoral laws) is approximately as follows:

In a year in which no general election or referendum is taken—£100,000, or 6d. per elector.

In a year in which a general election is held—£200,000, or 1/- per elector.

I very much doubt if it does include the cost of taking the census.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Turn back to the first paragraph of your recital from this gentleman and you will find where he refers to the census?—A. I will quote from his communication:—

The Chief Electoral Officer, Commonwealth Electoral Officers and Divisional Returning Officers, together with their requisite staffs of clerks, etc., are permanent officers of the Commonwealth public service and give their full time to such official duties as are imposed upon them. (These duties include mainly registration of electors and the maintenance of the rolls, conduct of parliamentary and other elections and referenda, taking of census, etc.)

Q. So it would look as though it included that?—A. Except that in this last paragraph he says, "including salaries and all other expenditure involved in the administration of the Commonwealth electoral laws." The taking of the census is not a part of that.

*By Mr. Turgeon:*

Q. I think their salaries would be included in that?—A. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Before Mr. Butcher proceeds, I think that if the suggestion advanced by Mr. Stevens were carried out it might secure for us some very enlightening information.