

Mr. FAIR: That is right. They might start public work in one constituency and keep the men there for two or three weeks, and then after the election was over, those men might go away.

Mr. MARIER: In the case of municipal work, people living in the municipality and in the surrounding municipalities will come and work on the job.

In respect of public work under provincial or federal jurisdiction it might include people coming one hundred miles to work on it, so there would be a big difference in that case.

Mr. MURPHY: I think there is an important principle at stake; and if this particular section has not been considered in that light before, I wonder if it would be fair to suggest to Mr. Castonguay that we leave this section over until another meeting and have him give us his suggestion or his ideas respecting the point which I have just brought up.

The CHAIRMAN: We want to have it clear; do you mean to exclude those engaged in municipal public work or not?

Mr. MURPHY: I want to be perfectly fair; I see no reason why the municipal projects and those working on them should not be in the same category as the provincial or dominion public work.

The CHAIRMAN: I can only offer my tentative opinion; but surely, are we not trying to purify politics?

Mr. MURPHY: I beg your pardon.

The CHAIRMAN: I say: are we not trying to purify politics? We are assuming that politics require it, because the dominion or a provincial government might establish public work at a convenient time, but I do not think any one in the committee thinks that a municipal corporation would do that for the purpose of a federal election.

Mr. MURPHY: On the other hand, I have not thought of it that way at all. My consideration was given as an interpretation of this Act regardless of what might take place in politics.

The CHAIRMAN: As Mr. Castonguay has said, the men who are engaging in municipal public work undoubtedly will vote; whereas the men engaged in provincial or federal public work will not. The distinction is made for that purpose, I should say.

Mr. LOCKHART: I think that public opinion would prevent the bringing in of people from outside, because the local people would be up in arms about it. I think the thing is pretty well safeguarded. I have never seen it done in connection with municipal work of any kind in any county, but in connection with provincial or federal public work, you run into this thing occasionally. I do not believe there is any possibility of friction with respect to municipal work, because the officials of any county or local municipality—they are not political, as the chairman says, and they would just hang themselves at sunrise if they attempted to bring people in from one hundred miles or more away to do local municipal work. So I think the thing would take care of itself.

Mr. MACINNIS: I cannot see how the new wording is any more inclusive or explicit than the old wording.

The CHAIRMAN: The only thing is that someone has questioned the decision which the chief electoral officer made on the old wording, so he wants an amendment to the law so that whoever questions his ruling next time will have it clear.

Mr. MACINNIS: I think the old wording is best, because it makes no distinction as to who is carrying on the public work.

The CHAIRMAN: When the dominion government passes legislation, then it is open to anyone in the dominion to say that it applies only to persons who are subject to the dominion legislation and that a provincial work, a provincial public work is subject to the Act.