

know whether I wrote an answer, and I do not know whether it is on the file or not if I did, but in any event, realizing as well as Mr. Boys what we wanted to do and that we wished to do as well as possible, I told him that if he would leave the matter with me I would find out; I did go to the heads of the opposition, told them the position and I said that the man I would suggest is So-and-so, does he meet with your approval? And both the President and Secretary of the association said, he does, absolutely.

Mr. HANSON: If Mr. Castonguay went to you, why should he not come to me?

Mr. MCPHERSON: I do not know, but as a matter of fact I do not think you can get away from a certain amount of political bias and I said so last year. The man who was appointed was a well-known Liberal, but they were agreeable to him. I had no objection to the old method of appointing returning officers, in my experience of thirty years.

Mr. Boys: You do not dispute that our intention was to get away from it if we could?

Mr. MCPHERSON: That was the idea, but I did not see that it could be got away from altogether. I suggested last year, and it was greeted with a snort of derision, that the sitting member should appoint the returning officer. I think some one laughed and said, "You are joking." But as a matter of fact we are sure to appoint either Liberals or Conservatives to these positions. So far as I am concerned, I want to go on record as saying this: that Mr. Castonguay asked me for my view as to who should receive the appointment in my constituency, and in that constituency the appointee was absolutely satisfactory.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I met Mr. Castonguay in Regina at the time of the Regina fair, in the Saskatchewan Hotel. He asked me about the appointment of officials, starting with the sheriff and from that down. I said, "I don't think the sheriff is competent and I don't think he would act, nor do I think he would be allowed to act. The registrar of the Land Titles Office is not a proper man for the position and I don't believe he would be allowed to act."

Mr. HANSON: Why do you say the sheriff would not be allowed to act? Because they always do in our counties.

Mr. BOTHWELL: In Saskatchewan it was allowed, if they wanted that position. The sheriff and the registrar.

Mr. Boys: It would be a good thing if you got one or two at least.

Mr. BOTHWELL: The next man was secretary-treasurer of a municipality, a returned soldier. I do not know what his politics are. He came there some years ago as a representative of the bond-holders. I told Mr. Castonguay that he was a first-class man. Mr. Castonguay wrote to Mr. Seath. Mr. Seath telephoned me one day and said that he had received a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer. He said, "I do not think that I can take that position." This was over the telephone, and I said, "The only thing to do is to bring it to the attention of the council." He later telephoned me that he had brought the matter to the attention of the council, and that council intimated that it would not be proper for him to act. The next man was secretary of the rural municipality, a well-known Liberal. I telephoned him the day that Mr. Seath informed me that he could not act. He said he would not take it at all. I did give Mr. Castonguay a list of names, but it was some time after, it may have been weeks, but anyway, after I went home. I do not know exactly when.

The next man was secretary-treasurer of the school board. He has been secretary-treasurer of both the public and high school boards for ten years, and I don't know how much longer, also manager of a trust company. He was the