

By Hon. Mr. Stevens:

Q. Would it not appear this way, that these permanent officials, call them electoral officials if you like, are the nucleus of the staff for the taking of a census?—A. I agree with that.

Q. In other words Mr. Coats here at Ottawa has a substantial staff who are there all the time and who during the year of taking the census are the spearhead of that work, but who after the census is over, have other full time work to do in regard to the working out of the accumulated data and looking after the reports, election analysis and all the rest of it. I would imagine that the electoral officer or officials are the permanent staff who are used at the time of the census taking?—A. I quite agree with that.

Q. Supplemented of course, by the additional staff?—A. That is right. These permanent officials are 81 in number, the Chief Electoral Officer, one Commonwealth electoral officer in each state and 74 returning officers. They are the permanent officials, but besides that, there would be a small army employed in taking the actual census. That is my point. I am wondering if the payment for those services is included in the cost.

Q. No, only the permanent staff.

Mr. HEAPS: I was going to ask that in considering your information you add something about the British system of getting the election lists together. You know, I presume, that in Great Britain the officials of the municipal bodies act as the officials in the election.

WITNESS: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. HEAPS: And they are the ones that have done it for a great many years. What arrangements are made in Great Britain between the Chief Electoral officer or a similar appointee there and the local officials for carrying on an election?

WITNESS: May I conclude with this statement first?

Mr. HEAPS: Yes.

WITNESS: I shall refer again to the cost of the four year parliament in Australia. The cost of the election and the legislation of voters would be around \$2,000,000. The cost of taking the decennial census in Canada 1931, was \$1,671,384.

Mr. TURGEON: The census?

WITNESS: The census of 1931. The quinquennial census of 1926 which, as every member probably knows, applies only to the three prairie provinces, was \$367,205. The total sum thus spent by Canada in taking the census in the ten years amounted to \$2,039,089. I have tried to find some common factors by which we could compare the cost in Australia and Canada, but with the little information we have, I have found it impossible to do so intelligently, and so I am going to ask the committee not to ask me to make a comparison at this time; meanwhile I am going to obtain all the information I can possibly get from Australia.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Before you dispose of this matter, I should say that it is virtually impossible, then, to make a fair and accurate comparison, and we must leave the matter there at the present time. I think we should understand that. I appreciate Mr. Butcher's effort in this respect. I desire to say I am perfectly satisfied that Mr. Butcher has done everything that is reasonably possible to do in an effort to obtain this information.

WITNESS: Mr. Heaps asked about spoiled ballots, and if I could obtain some information from other sources.

Mr. HEAPS: Yes.

[Mr. Harry Butcher]