

ing division very inaccessible to some people; for instance, with a stream running through the centre of it, and perhaps the men to the north of the stream would have trouble in getting to the poll, or vice versa. There was one instance where a man had to swim across a lake to get to the polling place.

*By Mr. Bothwell:*

Q. There have been so many changes in the west that it is difficult to keep a polling place stationary.—A. Very difficult.

*By Mr. Bancroft:*

Q. In your experience with three elections have you had many complaints of the returning officers using their positions to further the interests of the party to which they belonged?—A. Proportionately and comparatively extraordinarily few; absolutely, a considerable number.

*By Mr. Kennedy:*

Q. What about the men appointed under the returning officers to do the organizing?—A. I have had two or three instances of a returning officer being a mask for somebody who was really fixing the thing up for some political end.

*By Mr. Bancroft:*

Q. I have been through the same elections as you have, and the three returning officers with whom I had to do were extreme party men. Two belonged to one party and one to another, and I never had any trouble, nor do I know of any complaint in my constituency. The only trouble was at the beginning of each campaign when we had a new man who did not know anything about the work.—A. That was the general experience.

*By Mr. Kellner:*

Q. I would like to ask why you consider the sheriff the most suitable appointee. Why, in Edmonton, for instance, would you consider the sheriff better than John D. Hunt?—A. They are both officers. John D. Hunt is a first-rate man and an excellent public servant.

Q. But according to your suggestion he would not be considered at all.—A. That is perfectly true.

Q. Why not consider him?—A. The only reason for restricting the discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer is that it leaves him more free from criticism, because he has the direction of, but not the general discretion with regard to each electoral district.

Q. I think the answer to that is that if he carries on a good clean election he need not fear criticism.—A. He may do his best and still get into trouble. I have known chief electoral officers who did that.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Have you anything further to say?—A. Those are the only two substantial points. There are a number of minor amendments, but they are purely in regard to the machinery with regard to the election clerks. There is a recommendation with regard to certain changes in urban registration and the revision of urban lists and some purely formal things about recounts and so on. The only other point which has any substantial bearing is, as the report suggests, in regard to an interval of seven days between nomination and polling being too short to efficiently carry on the work in a number of electoral districts.