

The inference from this evidence is that under compulsory voting the vote is very high. The spoiled ballots on the other hand are substantially higher than they are here. The average of spoiled ballots in the 1929 election—that is the average per riding in New South Wales—was 1,326. In Queensland the average per riding in the same election was 1,820. In West Australia the average was 813 per riding.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you a comparison with Canada?

Mr. MACNICOL: In Canada the average for our 245 ridings is less than 200 per riding.

The CHAIRMAN: What is the comparison as regards size of ridings?

Mr. MACNICOL: In Australia they keep to their average nearer than we do in Canada. They do not have a situation in Australia like we do in Canada where we have the riding of Nipissing with 90,000 population and where we have the riding of Glengarry with, I believe, about 18,000. In Australia they have more uniformity than we have here.

Now, Mr. Heaps asked a question with regard to Canada. Personally, I am pleased with the way Canadians have voted in the past, taking everything into consideration—the size of our ridings and our difficulties as to climate—because in Australia they are not subject, particularly in the winter time, to our extremes. We have had late fall elections in December, and in Australia they are not subject to the same extremes of temperature as we are here. Under those circumstances our Canadian vote has been a very substantial one. I think, perhaps, it will be just as well if we considered the elections of 1925, 1926, 1930 and 1935.

Mr. HEAPS: Have you not got some a little earlier than that?

Mr. MACNICOL: Would you rather I kept down to 1935, 1930, 1926 and 1925. It will not take long.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we should have 1925.

Mr. MACNICOL: In the Canadian general election for the year 1925 the Ontario vote was: 1925, 65 per cent; 1926, 64 per cent; 1930, 69 per cent; 1935, 74 per cent of the names on the lists.

Quebec: 1925, 72 per cent; 1926, 71 per cent; 1930, 76 per cent; 1935, 74 per cent.

Nova Scotia: 1925, 70 per cent; 1926, 72 per cent; 1930, 83 per cent; 1935, 76 per cent.

New Brunswick: 1925, 61 per cent; 1926, 68 per cent; 1930, 78 per cent; 1935, 77 per cent.

Manitoba: 1925, 68 per cent; 1926, 77 per cent; 1930, 72 per cent; 1935, 75 per cent.

British Columbia: 1925, 75 per cent; 1926, 71 per cent; 1930, 73 per cent; 1935, 76 per cent.

Prince Edward Island: 1925, 76 per cent; 1926, 84 per cent; 1930, 89 per cent; 1935, 80 per cent.

Saskatchewan: 1925, 57 per cent; 1926, 70 per cent; 1930, 71 per cent; 1935, 77 per cent.

Alberta: 1925, 57 per cent; 1926, 57 per cent; 1930, 66 per cent, and 1935, 65 per cent.

That, by the way, is the province which votes the lowest in Canada.

Yukon: 1925, 78 per cent; 1926, 68 per cent; 1930, 76 per cent; 1935, 75 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN: I might direct your attention to the fact that in the 1925 election Saskatchewan had very bad weather. I do not know how it was in other provinces.