

of them being prepared on the administrative and some on the registration plan. In the Province of Prince Edward Island there are never any provincial lists. The Dominion system is founded upon the separate systems of the nine different provinces and itself combines both the administrative and registration features, rural registrars being required to include in their lists the names of all qualified voters without any intervention on the part of the latter, and urban registrars being restricted to recording-registrations based either on the provincial lists, if any, or upon applications made by or on behalf of the voters concerned.

By Mr. Kellner:

Q. I would like to have some information about that. Last year we asked for a copy of the '25 report.

The CHAIRMAN: The 1926 report.

The WITNESS: This is 1926 I have before me, but this part of it was in the 1925 report.

Paragraph No. 12 says:—

12. This combination of systems has certain definite advantages of elasticity. Dominion lists are everywhere prepared during the election itself, when public interest is at its maximum and it is hardly possible for any voter to be unaware of the approach of an opportunity of exercising his franchise or of the wisdom of making sure that he will be entitled to vote where he happens to be. It is, moreover, possible to most temporary and local conditions, almost, one might say, to chase the voter with a ballot box, and a tendency to press for action in this direction is to be frequently observed. These advantages have, however, counterbalancing disadvantages. Prepared as the lists are within a few weeks before the election by officers sometimes selected on party grounds and therefore suspected by their party opponents, ordinary errors are attributed to bad faith and misfeasance. Moreover, the haste with which the lists must be prepared is a frequent cause of mistakes, and the completed lists do not reach the candidates who desire to use them until so short a time before polling day that their value in the organization of the electoral district is at a minimum. The very elasticity of the system which permits the establishment of fresh polling divisions up to hardly more than a few days before polling day, makes the pre-election organization of an electoral district a very difficult task, especially when no trustworthy or recent provincial lists are available for the purpose.

Then in the report itself the subject is referred to in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10. After a reference to this appendix, from which I have just read, it goes on in the second sentence of paragraph 8 of the report proper to say:—

It may be open to question whether the advantages of the present system counterbalance its heavy cost and the inconvenience attendant upon it. There is no doubt that by an expenditure of less than \$250,000 a year up to date lists having a high degree of accuracy could be continuously kept available, and the cost of the poll itself could at the same time be substantially reduced. A reduction by half of the length of the campaign would doubtless also do much to relieve the burden the present system places upon candidates. These results could probably, however, be secured only at the sacrifice of some of the elasticity which the present system possesses.