

*By Mr. Heaps:*

Q. Over a four year period what would that amount to?—A. That would be three times \$1,666,665, plus \$2,499,990.

Q. That would be \$7,000,000?—A. More than that; very much more expensive than our present system. Almost twice as costly.

WITNESS: That is all the information I have with regard to compulsory registration, Mr. Chairman.

*By Mr. Heaps:*

Q. What was the total cost of our last general election?—A. I think it was about \$3,800,000—\$4,000,000 approximately; but that includes the \$200,000 spent for machinery in order to enable the King's Printer to print the lists.

Q. What was the cost of the previous election?—A. \$2,166,000 approximately.

Q. And you figure that we have about 50 per cent more population than Australia?—A. It is really rather more than that.

Q. And that would add 50 per cent to the Australian cost?—A. That is my impression.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: That is what he has done.

WITNESS: Yes.

*By Mr. Heaps:*

Q. That is what you have done?—A. Yes.

Q. Could we not carry on an election here at a much lower cost than they have in Australia?—A. It is very hard to say as to that. There is no doubt at all that an election in Canada can be run very much more cheaply; registration and election in Canada could be run very much more cheaply than has been the case in Australia.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Mr. Butcher, have you got a separate indication of the cost of compulsory registration and compulsory voting in Australia?—A. No, the Chief Electoral Officer made no distribution or distinction with respect to the separate costs.

Q. Would your studies indicate that compulsory voting would automatically in part cover the results secured by compulsory registration?—A. There is no doubt that compulsory registration was adopted in Australia because they intended to adopt compulsory voting later on, which they did in the following year.

Q. Will your investigation lead you to conclude that the two must go together?—A. No, not necessarily. New Zealand has compulsory registration but not compulsory voting.

Q. I may not have made the other point clear; would your researches indicate that if compulsory voting were adopted here it would have the tendency largely to cover the results achieved by compulsory registration without the cost of the machinery?—A. I am afraid not. I think you simply must have compulsory registration if you are going to have compulsory voting.

*By Mr. Factor:*

Q. You say you could not have compulsory voting without compulsory registration?—A. Without it you would not know who had failed to vote.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What justification would there be for having compulsory registration without compulsory voting. How does New Zealand justify that?—A. I do not know. I have no information on that point.