

is called "chain gang work." That is, they never know whether they are going to be in or out; they might have come in on their regular train on polling day and be called out by an accident, and would have to go because if they did not it would be a case of insubordination which would not be tolerated by the officials. By having these polls open it would give them more opportunity for voting. For many years the men did not know whether they could vote or not, and they got out of the habit of voting. That is the difference between the old situation and the proposed change.

By Mr. Boys:

Q. Do these hours of yours cover all of the runs?—A. Pretty well, yes.
Now, subsection 10 reads:

Amend subsection (10) to read:

(10) Every person applying to vote at an Advance Poll shall, before voting, be required by the Deputy Returning Officer to make the following declaration, which shall be kept by the Deputy Returning Officer with the other records of the poll:

The declaration contains but one change, and that is in the wording. It reads:

Declaration

I declare that my employment or calling is that of a Railway Employee, Sailor or Commercial Traveller and necessitates, from time to time, my absence from my ordinary place of residence, and that I have reason to believe that because of possible necessary absence from my ordinary place of residence in the pursuit of my employment or calling, I may be unable to vote at the pending Dominion Election on polling day. I am aware that after voting at an Advance Poll, I have no right to vote or to attempt to vote at any other polling station at the pending Dominion Election.

Dated at....., this.....day of.....10..

Witness.....

Deputy Returning Officer.

.....

Name of Voter.

This was looked upon by many people almost as an oath, and they did not care to definitely say they would not be in, when they might, or that they would be away, when they might be in, and this change is made to meet that condition. It amounts to this, that if a citizen gets a certificate and finds he is not in but expects to be, he cannot make a declaration that he will be out, and vice versa. We have changed the declaration to read "may be away." I am trying to explain it to make it easier for you either to accept our suggestion or to turn it down.

By Mr. Ladner:

Q. Would you not be up against the difficulty that almost anybody could make a declaration? Supposing you used the words "expect to be away by virtue of my calling."

Mr. SENN: Or "I have reason to believe I will be away."

The WITNESS: The declaration of the province of Ontario is very comprehensive. It reads: "... declare that I am at present employed by..... railway company and that I expect in the course of my employment to be absent from my usual place of residence on the day for holding the polls at the coming general or by-election." That is in the Ontario Election Act of 1919.

[Mr. L. L. Pelletier.]