

lists is to exclude from voting the people who are not entitled to vote and whom the candidates are interested in seeing do not get an opportunity to cast a vote. In my report of 1925, I think it was, I pointed out that it was impossible to avoid mistakes with the present machinery. You begin to prepare lists containing approximately over four million names in a period of six weeks, and you cannot hope to have it accurate. You pick up, roughly speaking, sixty thousand or seventy thousand people throughout the country for the purpose of preparing lists, and even presuming that every one of those individuals was intelligent as possible, and as careful as possible, there would be bound to be mistakes. Having regard to the way that you must recruit your forces, you cannot possibly hope to have lists prepared, under our present laws, which are either complete or accurate. They serve as a guide, and they are useful within limits, but it is perfectly futile really to quarrel with errors in them, because with the present system of preparation, errors are absolutely inevitable.

*By Mr. Kellner:*

Q. If we accept that statement, should we not have to accept any list that is given?—A. No. What I have in my mind is this: that the present system, many advantages though it may have, has this disadvantage, that there is no feasible way of preparing a complete list for the whole country in six weeks or so. We cannot hope to have an accurate machine. I am convinced of that. The time is not available to prepare an accurate list for the whole country—the time is too short.

*By Mr. Hanson:*

Q. Do you suggest that that is the only factor?—A. No. There are a great many factors which go to make for errors in lists, but there are two things which really affect the correctness of the lists as we have them. One is the hurry, and one is that you are employing for the purpose of preparing those lists, roughly speaking, sixty thousand people selected for purely temporary employment from one end of the country to the other, and you cannot get these people trained in time, even if otherwise they were perfectly adapted to their jobs.

Q. Take the rural registration: that presupposes the people are changed every election. As a matter of fact that is not really the case. With us there is continuity.—A. That is the reason why there has been less trouble in each general election since 1920, when this Act came into force. There has been a considerable change in the direction of the machine working more smoothly on each occasion, and I attribute that very largely to the increased knowledge of the people who are appointed to work at these elections.

Q. Of course, it is a different basis in each province? For instance, we have a provincial list which is revised every year. That is the basis of our lists in New Brunswick, and it has worked very well in a non-partisan way.—A. Yes. As a matter of fact that was really the next point I was coming to. I was about to refer to what was in that report on this subject after describing the different way in which lists might be prepared, which we need not trouble about now. The report goes on to say this:—

Our present Dominion system may be said to be a combination of all four plans. In the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario lists are prepared for provincial purposes periodically by administrative officers. In British Columbia facilities for the registration of voters are continuously available and the lists are periodically revised. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta provincial lists are prepared only in anticipation of an immediate election, some