

Q. May I ask if the officials to whom you refer in your memorandum are permanent officials?—A. Yes, they are permanent officials, with the exception of the electoral registrar for a polling division, who generally happens to be or is the divisional returning officer and, in that case, of course, is a permanent official.

By Mr. Turgeon:

Q. How long has this system been in force?—A. Since 1924.

By Mr. Heaps:

Q. How are those officials appointed?—A. It does not state in the act. I would assume that they are appointed by the governor in council.

Q. Are they permanently appointed?—A. Yes. They describe them as permanent officials. I do not know under what circumstances they might be changed; it is not mentioned in the act at all. That is all I have on that subject. The situation in New Zealand is practically the same as in Australia.

By Mr. Turgeon:

Q. 25,000, out of what population?—A. Just over 6,000,000.

Q. Is that the voting population?—A. No, the voting population is about 4,000,000.

Q. Out of 4,000,000, 25,000 were fined?—A. Yes. Perhaps it would be advisable to go over the figures I have in connection with compulsory voting, because in that way I can give you the two costs at once.

By Mr. Glen:

Q. There is one thing to investigate there, someone has to see whether the names of the people who vote were on these lists prior to an election?—A. Yes. The registrar is under the necessity of trying to ascertain for himself if the names of people who should be on the lists are there.

Q. The thought in my mind was that in the revision of our Act, in the rural constituencies especially, we would find many cases where people had not registered right up to as late even as election day?—A. Yes, but on election day it becomes obvious who the defaulters are. It is the duty of the electoral officer to check up the names of those who have failed to register. Mr. Heaps was asking about cost. I am informed that in any year in which there is a general election the cost is £200,000, approximately \$1,000,000.

By Mr. Heaps:

Q. Is that based on the current value of the Australian pound?—A. Yes. I am told to-day that it is worth approximately five Canadian dollars.

Q. I think you will find that it is not worth quite that much, that it is at a discount of about 20 per cent under that?—A. Then you would have to take 20 per cent off my figures. I worked it out on the basis of \$5 to the pound. At any rate, I am informed—these are the figures given to me by the Chief Electoral Officer—that in a year in which a general election is held the cost is £200,000 and in a year in which a general election is not held the cost is £100,000. In that connection, the population of Canada is 10,367,000 and the population of Australia is 6,624,000. On the basis of \$5 to the pound—which is apparently inaccurate—I found that the cost for Canada would be, in an election year \$2,499,990, and in a year in which no election is held the cost would be \$1,666,665.

By Mr. Turgeon:

Q. Is that the cost for registration?—A. For registration and election.

[Mr. Harry Butcher.]