

Mr. KELLNER: I am not arguing that at all.

Mr. McPHERSON: So far as that is concerned, he seems to be a very satisfactory man.

Mr. KELLNER: I will turn now to the constituency of Athabaska. Mr. Hunt's recommendation in that constituency was William Hitchins, J. P. Evans, Harold King and William Buckley of St. Paul. Mr. Hitchins is a Liberal. Mr. Evans is a farmers' supporter; Mr. King is also a supporter of the farmers, and Mr. Buckley will be my opponent at the next election as a Liberal. Mr. Hunt recommended two farmer supporters and two Liberals in his recommendation. Mr. King was returning officer in that constituency in 1926. He went in there and had a terrible mess to clean up, and did it well. He carried on the election in 1926, and there was only one case of dissatisfaction. That was where a poll had been put in a school and the trustees refused to let them have the school. He straightened the matter up and Mr. Biggar wrote him as follows:—

I beg to acknowledge with many thanks your report with regard to polling division No. 119, Tillyfield. It is very satisfactory to have had so comprehensive and detailed an account of the situation so well supported by affidavit.

When these appointments came out, Mr. King was dissatisfied because he did not get the appointment. He wrote to Mr. Castonguay and wanted to know why. Mr. Castonguay wrote back as follows:

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 7th instant.

At the time of making the appointments of returning officers pursuant to section 21 of the Dominion Elections Act as amended at the last session of Parliament, your name was considered along with the names of several others for the position of returning officer for the electoral district of Athabaska, and the fact that you did not receive the appointment is in no sense a reflection upon you nor upon the manner in which you discharged your duties as returning officer at the last federal election.

Mr. King also wrote to Mr. Hunt to see if he would recommend him, and this is Mr. Hunt's reply:—

Yours of the 12th instant to hand. In reply I beg to say that I gave a favourable report on you as returning officer some time ago, which of course was all that I could do, as I had no authority to do anything more than express my personal opinion, founded upon your work at the last election. No doubt there were others who reported favourably on other applicants, and the selection would be left to Mr. Castonguay.

Mr. TOTZKE: Is this man satisfactory who has secured the appointment?

Mr. KELLNER: I will tell you a few things about that in a minute if you will just give me time. Here is a list of election officials who operated in the notorious election in 1925. When the election was over they sent in an account for \$22,438.43. The Auditor General cut that down to \$18,425.89. But in 1926 this man who is now let out carried on the election at a cost of \$12,803.30, about two-thirds of what it was in 1925.

Mr. TOTZKE: Had he improved facilities?

Mr. KELLNER: Improved conditions. He had a very satisfactory election.

Mr. BOYS: He improved the conduct of the election.

Mr. KELLNER: And cut down the election cost.

Mr. TOTZKE: There would be improved traffic conditions?

Mr. KELLNER: We are building roads very rapidly out there but there is only a year between the elections.