

election officer which you desire me to bring to the attention of the Speaker of the House of Commons with my official report. If not, please do not trouble to acknowledge this letter, but if so I shall append to my report a copy of any communication you may desire to send me on either of the subjects mentioned.

Q. That would not cover a case where there was a great deal of inefficiency in the general arrangements of polling districts—A. Yes.

Q.—due to the fact that the officials did not have the time?

Mr. McPHERSON: I think that letter would cover complaints and suggestions as to how the Act should be amended.

Mr. KENNEDY: I have this in mind: In the province of Alberta we had a provincial election about two months ahead of the federal election. In every case where there was practically a solid farmer vote in the provincial election, there was no poll at all in the federal election, and the people were asked to travel from 15 to 21 miles to vote.

The CHAIRMAN: You should have complained about that.

Mr. KELLNER: What good would it have done?

Mr. KENNEDY: I did not receive a letter. I am more anxious to remedy this than to complain about it.

Mr. BOTHWELL: We had complaints filed during the course of the election, with no result, and it was no use sending in a report afterwards.

The WITNESS: That certainly was not true in connection with any election when I was Chief Electoral Officer.

Mr. BOTHWELL: That was in 1926.

The WITNESS: There was never a complaint that was not dealt with within twenty-four hours.

Mr. BOTHWELL: There was no action taken.

The WITNESS: There was always all the action taken which was possible under the circumstances.

Mr. BOTHWELL: Let me give you an instance. In the Swift Current constituency there were polls placed in position so that we had to station men along the road to show the voters where to vote. Schoolhouses which had been used previously for polling places were not used during the general election. Complaints regarding that were sent in by telegraph during the course of the election.

The WITNESS: I have not my file with me, and I cannot reply definitely to that statement. You may well imagine that I received a very large number of complaints during the election, chiefly by telegraph, which later turned out to be entirely unfounded, and it was impossible to give an ex parte report of improper conduct on the part of any returning officer on the information then before me. It is not reasonable to ask that I at once order a returning officer to do certain things, because, as I say, in about three cases out of five telegraphic suggestions or complaints of a general character it turned out that the complaints were based on a complete misunderstanding of the situation. In approximately two out of three of these cases I was able to adjust matters by getting the candidate or the complainant in touch with the officer against whom the complaint was made.

Mr. BOTHWELL: We got in touch with the proper officials, as we thought, but without results.

The WITNESS: My general practice was not only to make an investigation of such matters as you speak of but also to telegraph the returning officer at the same time that a complaint had been made and ask him to take such neces-