

Q. You are of the opinion that the Act is all right as at present, and that the trouble is due to the men, and not to the Act?—A. I think so.

*By Mr. Kennedy:*

Q. The nearer you come to getting a permanent election machine, the better it will be?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Hanson:*

Q. Do you think it necessary for the returning officer to visit every poll in his district?—A. That depends on the returning officer himself. We had returning officers in the elections of 1925 and 1926 who had practically no mileage at all. That would apply to your own district. We have others who have exorbitant mileages. I think if a man visits every poll and explains the machinery, he is entitled to be paid for it.

Q. The Chief Electoral Officer has a staff of men from whom year after year he chooses returning officers?—A. That is one of the benefits of the federal government using the provincial officers.

*By Mr. Girouard:*

Q. I am thinking of one returning officer who was obliged to make three trips to get a deputy, and the Auditor General refused to allow mileage. I do not think that is fair. I think if the returning officer really makes the necessary trips to secure the necessary deputy, the Auditor General should accept his mileage. I do not think that the Auditor General or any one of his department should have the authority to take away money properly spent by any returning officer.—A. The instructions to the Chief Electoral Officer provide that the returning officer in making his appointments shall appoint the registrars and deputies.

*By Mr. Hanson:*

Q. Just one more thing in connection with this: the only difficulty we have ever had in our constituency is the attempt on your part, or on the part of your office, to eliminate the door-keeper or constable. The ground you take I understand is that in a rural poll or a small poll, it is unnecessary to have a guardian of the peace. I have always contended that it was necessary to have a constable at the door, so that only one voter at a time could come in.—A. If you will read the Election Act and the instructions of the Chief Electoral Officer you will see that he definitely states that it is not necessary.

I might make this suggestion, that the returning officer be appointed a considerable time before the election. The greatest difficulty that we have had is the appointment of a returning officer immediately prior to the issuing of the Writ.

Witness retired.

The Committee adjourned until Thursday, March 7th, at 4.00 p.m.