

*By Mr. Turgeon:*

Q. What per cent?—A. Two per cent.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Of the 5 per cent?—A. Of the total non-voters, only about 2 per cent of the total non-voters—

Q. The defaulters are 2 per cent of the 5 per cent?—A. Yes.

Q. Five per cent are defaulters and 2 per cent of the 5 per cent fail to give sufficient reason?—A. That is correct. Only 5 per cent failed to vote and only 2 per cent of those ordinarily are taken to the courts and proceeded against. I shall read that again.

*By Mr. Cameron:*

Q. Because they did not give a satisfactory explanation?—A. Yes.

In only about 2 per cent of the total non-voters is the reason given for failure to vote unacceptable, and in these cases the defaulters are so informed and given the option of having their cases dealt with by the Commonwealth Electoral Officer or alternatively by the ordinary courts. In most instances the delinquents agree to the departmental adjudication and are dealt with accordingly, a fine of 10/- generally being imposed, provided that where a penalty would involve a real hardship it is waived altogether, and a warning issued. Where the offenders do not agree to departmental judgment their cases are taken to the ordinary courts and dealt with before the magistrate.

A distinct advantage the administration derives from the compulsory voting provisions is "that as the result of the inquiries in respect of non-voters after an election the rolls are cleansed of a considerable number of obsolete entries which have escaped detection in the ordinary course."

*By Mr. Robichaud:*

Q. I thought you said a while ago 25,000 paid the fine?—A. For failing to register. The Chief Electoral Officer informs me that compulsory registration and compulsory voting had very little effect on the cost of electoral administration.

*By Mr. Turgeon:*

Q. Read that sentence again.—A. I may say the Chief Electoral Officer informs me that compulsory registration and compulsory voting in Australia have had very little effect on the cost of electoral administration. I suppose he means as compared with the former system. That is all the material I have sir, on compulsory voting.

*By Mr. Factor:*

Q. Are Australia and New Zealand the only countries that have adopted compulsory voting?—A. Only Australia; New Zealand has compulsory registration but not compulsory voting.

*By Mr. Robichaud:*

Q. What effect has that on the elections in New Zealand?—A. I have not that information.

*By Mr. Heaps:*

Q. What is the proportion of electors that vote in Great Britain?—A. I have not that information.

Q. I think they have a fairly large turnout which amounts to somewhere near 80 per cent?—A. I am sorry; I do not know.