

descriptions of the electors enrolled for his Division who have not voted at the election, and to certify the list by statutory declaration under his hand.

(3) The list so certified shall in all proceedings be prima facie evidence of the contents thereof and of the fact that the electors whose names appear therein did not vote at the election.

I will omit reading all the details as to how the returning officers proceed to transmit to the electoral officers the names of those who failed to vote, and how they proceed down to the penalty which is the imposition of a fine:

(12) Every elector who—

- (a) fails to vote at an election without a valid and sufficient reason for such failure; or
- (b) on receipt of a notice in accordance with subsection (4) of this section, fails to fill up, sign, and post within the time allowed under subsection (5) of this section the form (duly witnessed) which is attached to the notice; or
- (c) states in such form a false reason for not having voted, or, in the case of an elector filling up or purporting to fill up a form on behalf of any other elector, in pursuance of subsection (7) of this section, states in such form a false reason why that other elector did not vote,

shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalty: Two pounds.

I think in Canada that fine would be a little too high; my idea would be to make the fine about \$5.

*By Mr. Kennedy:*

Q. From what section are you reading?—A. Section 128a of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1918-1925.

*By Hon. Mr. Ralston:*

Q. I did not quite catch the purport of what you said. Your suggestion is that if he does not vote he must send to the electoral officer a statement showing why he did not vote.—A. He must give the reason, or pay the penalty.

Q. He sends it to the General Electoral Officer?—A. It finally reaches him. There is a good deal of detail here in which I do not presume you are interested as to how it finally gets to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Q. He may do that within a certain time after the election?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Black (Yukon):*

Q. Who will decide whether his reason is sufficient or not?—A. The electoral officer.

*By Hon. Mr. Ralston:*

Q. Does he do that under oath?—A. Yes. He signs a certificate—that is, the man who failed to vote; he must give the reason why he did not vote.

Q. I wanted to find out about that, before you came to the question of penalty.—A. That is it.

*By Mr. McPherson:*

Q. Does it not also provide a penalty where a man gives a false declaration?—A. Yes, and for the man who assists him.

[Mr. T. E. Kaiser, M.P.]