

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

May 13, 1948.

The Special Committee on the Dominion Elections Act met this day at 4 p.m. The Chairman, Mr. W. E. Harris, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, it has been suggested, and I am open to correction, that the best way of handling bill 198 is to begin at the beginning and leave off at any section which the members want to discuss or to amend. If a member wants to ask a question for information we could deal with the section shortly, but if it is apt to go beyond that I think we should drop it until the end.

Now, I shall call the sections, but I shall not read them.

Section 1—shall it carry?

Mr. FAIR: May I ask what the reason is for going over this whole bill again? Is it for some changes listed in the form, and then to take care of the technical details?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, and also, as I understand, we are a new committee appointed and we must pass the sections or reject them.

Mr. MACNICOL: I would like to address a remark to Mr. Castonguay. Last year we went carefully into all the sections and passed them in the end, and the bill was tabled in the House. Is it now proposed to make some few changes which have been suggested since that time?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: I think the idea is for this committee to approve all the amendments that were recommended in the committee last year and consider the further amendments that have since been suggested.

Mr. MACINNIS: We have a new bill before us and if we are going to deal with that bill we have to go through it section by section; otherwise, we cannot report to the House.

Mr. MARIER: We covered these sections last year one by one. Are we going to start all over again?

The CHAIRMAN: I notice that in the proceedings last year on one or two occasions Mr. MacInnis objected to the chairman going too fast. Are you going to do that again if I make the same mistake?

Mr. MACINNIS: I have the idea that last year our chairman read the sections, but I will check up on you if you go too fast.

Mr. RICHARD (*Gloucester*): In that case we will open up all the discussions that we had last year on all these sections.

Mr. MACINNIS: Not necessarily.

Mr. BERTRAND: Just when the section is different.

The CHAIRMAN: Can we rely on Mr. Castonguay to tell us when there has been a change in any of the sections since last year? If there has been no change we do not want anything said about it.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: The sections are exactly the same in principle as those that were recommended last year. There may be a change here or there in the drafting; these changes were made for uniformity and clarification; the principle of the various provisions has not been changed in any case.