

open now—and the cost of running the advance polls in the provinces. I think that if we could get that in tabular form, it would be very helpful to the committee in considering the problem of advance polling, which has been raised by a very large number of people who have written in.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: With regard to the province of Ontario, the chief electoral officer there has been very cooperative with me in the past; but it may take some time to get this information because he is rather busy now. I would need his cooperation to get that information. I might have to wait a month or two before I could get that information from him.

Mr. HOWARD: We will still be here.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: Given time, I could get that information.

Mr. RICHARD (*Ottawa East*): Mr. Chairman, I thought there had been a suggestion made that Mr. Castonguay would, from his correspondence and from his experience—because outside of the correspondence, no doubt he has had many representations from other people—classify the other headings where there have been suggestions made, such as advance polling, regional voting, a permanent list, et cetera, for those who have not had experience of the committee before.

Perhaps he could give us his views on these things, so that next year we may be better educated and better prepared to study the whole situation. I do think that we should have, maybe not a lecture, but a sort of resume of this act: what this act is; how it is built up. Perhaps Mr. Castonguay could do that, and then follow on with the general headings, such as advance polls and other subjects.

The CHAIRMAN: As I recall the suggestion which Mr. Castonguay has accepted, it is that this correspondence will be so classified. For instance, these from the Secretary of State's office do just that: they note the letters that have come in on various subjects, with summaries on them.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: Most of the suggestions I have read are representations for absentee voting or extension of privileges to vote at advance polls for all classes of people, not only commercial travellers and transportation people.

In most commonwealth countries absentee voting—in the two provinces in Canada that have absentee voting—goes hand in hand with a permanent system of lists; that is, a permanent registration. Then you can provide for absentee voting. In the province of Saskatchewan they adopted a method of absentee voting which merely requires an elector to make an affidavit that he will be absent, and he is allowed to vote.

The province of Saskatchewan does not record a permanent list; they have the same basic method as we have to prepare lists. I am not familiar with the details of the permanent lists—that is, the technical aspect of it, or the administrative side of it—because the only experience I have ever had in this country with a permanent list was in 1934, when parliament brought down the Franchise Act and there was a general enumeration in June, 1934. There was a revision in June, 1935, and the election was held in October, 1935.

The committee that was set up after the 1935 elections studied methods of compulsory voting, compulsory registration, permanent lists and all features of the act for three sessions, 1936, 1937 and 1938. They made their report in 1938, adopting the present system. The reason that the permanent list system did not give any satisfaction here was that the onus of recording any change of dwelling or position was left upon the elector himself, mostly. There was no house-to-house canvassing, checking on lists to bring them up to date. Where they have permanent lists in the commonwealth, there is at least a bi-annual house-to-house check to bring the list up to date. I am just giving you a rough picture of this.