

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 429

March 31, 1936.

The Special Committee appointed to study the Dominion Elections Act, 1934, and the amendments thereto and the Dominion Franchise Act, 1934, and amendments thereto, met at 11 a.m., Mr. Bothwell, the chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum, and Mr. Butcher is present and will submit his suggestions to you in a moment. Before he does so I should like to read into the record a memorandum on suggested amendments to the Elections Act submitted to this committee by the Canadian Navigators' Federation of Montreal. It reads as follows:

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION ACT

In order to facilitate the votes of the Mariners and suggested by the Canadian Navigators' Federation Inc.

"Mariner".

"Mariner" shall mean and include any man or woman who is serving in His Majesty's naval forces of Great Britain or Canada or is serving or employed in any capacity on a vessel or vessels of any description in the service of the Dominion Government, or is employed in any capacity on any vessel or vessels of any description at the time of the issue of writ for any Federal Election.

Mariner's right to vote by proxy.

(1) Where the name of a person is entered on the voters' list for a polling subdivision as entitled to vote at elections to the House of Commons and such person is a mariner he shall be entitled to vote by proxy as in this section provided.

Appointment or proxy.

(2) A mariner may appoint in writing (Form a) a proxy who shall be the wife, husband, parent, brother, sister or child of the mariner, of the full age of twenty-one years and an elector entitled to vote in the electoral district in which the mariner is qualified to vote.

Term of appointment.

(3) The appointment of a proxy shall name the person authorized to vote at an election for which writ has been issued for the electoral district and no appointment of a proxy shall be valid unless it is made after the date of the issue of the writ of election nor shall it remain in force after the return of such writ.

Application of proxy to be entered on list.

(4) A person who has been appointed a voting proxy may apply to the revising officer at the sittings held for the revision of the lists in accordance with the provisions of "the Voters' List 'Act'" in the municipality in which the mariner is entitled to vote, to be entered upon such list.