

Hon. Mr. ELLIOTT: It seems to me that the opinion is to be boiled down to the one thing that residence must be a more or less fixed point.

Mr. GAGNON: The law may have to be amended.

Mr. MACNICOL: This has nothing to do with the case in hand, but if the committee is meeting and the report is to be brought in, it may not be entirely out of place. I do not ask it to be dealt with unless it is in place. I think there were about three hundred altogether disfranchised in my riding. They all had their receipts. The enumerator came to them and put down their names and addresses and handed them a receipt; but in compiling the list, some 342 were not able to vote because their names were left off the list.

If this committee has power to deal with that, not to-day but later on, I think we ought to make some recommendation along that line.

Hon. Mr. ELLIOTT: I assume the committee is considering what was referred to them by the member for Simcoe East, Mr. Thompson. I have no doubt there would be no objections to our considering anything which may assist in improving the election law.

Mr. LAWSON: I would raise the question whether this is just the time to consider it. Undoubtedly this committee will, before the next general election, be considering suggestions as to the Elections Act. I had the same experience as Mr. MacNicol refers to, excepting that a greater number were in the same position in West York; that is possibly because I had the most numerous population of any riding in Canada. The enumerator went around and took down the people's names. The Elections Act requires the enumerator to give a certificate to the voter that he had recorded his name, and so on. The enumerators handed out those certificates, but when the people went to vote, their names were not on the list, and in spite of the fact that they had a certificate that the man who made the list out put them on, they were not entitled to vote. These are urban polls.

Mr. MERCIER: We had the same difficulty in our riding.

Mr. LAWSON: Although West York is a rural riding for some purposes, the electoral officer held we were urban for election purposes.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: If the committee will allow me, in view of what Mr. Lawson has said, that a large number of names of voters who were given slips by the enumerator did not find their names on the list, I made a suggestion in my report to the Speaker in September last, that I thought it would be well to adopt a new system based upon the present system, which I think would be of great advantage.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: What was the suggestion you made?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: The suggestion I made would have the effect of shortening the period that is necessary to prepare lists. Now it takes eight full weeks to prepare lists in an urban riding. My suggestion would make it possible to prepare those lists in six weeks. Have double enumerators, print the lists as soon as they have been enumerated, and have copies enough so as to be able to send one to each dwelling in the polling subdivision, that would be about eighty copies; and there would be no revision until within about ten days of the polling, and then the revising officer would print the lists.

Mr. LAWSON: All these matters suggested by the Chief Electoral Officer would come eventually before the committee when it comes to finally consider the revision of the Elections Act.

Mr. DUFF: Was the original list posted?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: The enumerator would make a list of the voters and the addresses, and my idea is that when the lists are printed a copy of the list would be mailed to each house in the polling subdivision, and in that way a