

Your Committee has also made a study of the Dominion Elections Act, 1934, with amendments thereto, and the Dominion Franchise Act, 1934, with amendments thereto, as instructed in the order of reference of January 26, 1937.

Every suggestion received by your Committee since the 1935 election, whether from Members of Parliament, election officers, franchise officers, political and other organizations or private individuals, and whether received in writing or by personal representation, was carefully considered by your Committee.

All witnesses who expressed a wish to be heard by your Committee were duly heard and their representations given all possible consideration.

Your Committee wishes to confirm their Fourth and Final Report of 1936, a copy of which is hereto attached, with respect to,—

- (a) The Proportional Representation System.
- (b) The Alternative Vote in single member constituencies.

Your Committee has also considered compulsory registration and compulsory voting and has decided that it cannot recommend either to the favourable consideration of the House. With regard to the former, it is of the opinion that it could not be enforced without continuous registration, a large staff of permanent officials, an annual house-to-house check-up of the names of the electors on the lists, and by other means, and your Committee believes that the cost would be prohibitive under such circumstances. With regard to compulsory voting your Committee has carefully considered the evidence submitted and, in view of the high percentage of electors who voted in Canada at the last two general elections, and of the doubtful value of compelling unwilling electors to cast their votes, together with the probable additional cost, has concluded that it would be inadvisable to adopt that system in Canada at this time.

Your Committee is unanimously of the opinion that the system of the Annual Revision of lists of electors, as provided in the Dominion Franchise Act, 1934, has proved unsatisfactory. Experience has shown that the basic lists prepared in 1934 were almost obsolete within six months after they were completed, and that the Annual Revision held in the year 1935 was not adequate to remedy the situation. The conclusion arrived at is that the yearly Revision under the provisions of the Dominion Franchise Act, 1934, could not produce satisfactory results, and that only through voluntary efforts on the part of Members of Parliament, candidates and political organizations, involving great cost in time and money, could the lists of electors be brought up to date and thoroughly purged. Your Committee is unanimously of the opinion that it would be advisable to return to the system of preparation and revision of the lists of electors immediately after the issue of the Writs of Election, with closed lists in urban polls, and open lists in rural polls, as in 1930.

Your Committee recommends that the Dominion Franchise Act, 1934, be repealed, and the provisions relating to the preparation and revision of the lists of electors be again embodied in the Dominion Elections Act.

Your Committee recommends that the particular sections in the Dominion Elections Act providing for absentee voting should be repealed. The intricacy of the procedure, the large number of rejected ballots, and the excessive cost to the country, have convinced your Committee that it would be unwise to continue this manner of voting. Furthermore, with the adoption of the 1930 procedure, your Committee is of the opinion that absentee voting will no longer be necessary.

A suggestion was made to your Committee that publication of election returns from East to West throughout Canada should be synchronized, or hours of polling should vary. It was represented that election returns from the Maritime Provinces were being received in the Western Provinces from one to three hours before the close of the polls in the latter provinces, and that undue