

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. In electing your president you did not have proportional representation?

*By Mr. Crow:*

Q. You are only taking the first, second and third choice in the election for president?—A. That is true. We have different systems in different branches.

*By Hon. Mr. Calder:*

Q. If you had to elect a committee of five men, you would apply the principle of proportional representation?—A. Yes. Of course we find it impossible to follow that system in our election for the Dominion, because we have to have one man from each province.

*By Mr. Davidson:*

Q. Has the sense of your Dominion organization been taken on the question of proportional representation in Dominion elections?—A. Yes, for two years the question has been before the organization, and on every occasion when it has been discussed, the opinion has been unanimously in favour of proportional representation, and I gave the reasons for that.

*By Mr. Simpson:*

Q. You have spoken strongly in favour of proportional representation and the grouping of constituencies. Have you ever given any thought to by-elections, of which we have a great many, as to the additional expense of having a by-election over a group where only one man is to be elected. Take Northern Ontario, we have five members representing that area, which is about eighty-five per cent of the area of Ontario. That was grouped into one constituency. Have you ever thought of the expense of conducting a by-election in that area?—A. When I came before the Committee I did not profess to be an expert on proportional representation. There are men in our association who have studied it more intensively than I have, who are unable to be present to-day, but we think it should be carried as far as practicable, and of course the case you mention would be an extreme one.

Witness retired.

Mr. CROW: I move a vote of thanks be tendered to the gentlemen who have appeared before the Committee, seconded by Mr. Thompson.

The motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN: We made an effort to have a representative of the farmers before the Committee. The secretary wrote to Mr. Morrison, asking him to come or to send a representative, but we have had no reply.

Mr. HAROLD: He has just returned from California.

The Committee adjourned.