

Mr. KELLNER: He was looking for reputable and reliable persons to make the recommendations.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: Under the Election Act of Alberta, who makes the appointment?

Mr. KELLNER: Mr. Hunt.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: Or the government.

Mr. KELLNER: Mr. Hunt goes to the representative of the constituency and asks him to recommend a returning officer.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: But are the returning officer appointments made by the government, or by Mr. Hunt?

Mr. KELLNER: Mr. Hunt recommends them to the government. I think probably they are official appointments.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: Made by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Mr. KELLNER: They accept his recommendation. I want to point this out, that we have at the present time forty-three farmer representatives in the province, out of sixty, and they get the same consideration as the other men; they were asked to name their returning officers.

Mr. McPHERSON: That is, the sitting member names them in Alberta.

Mr. KELLNER: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: He is allowed to recommend them.

Mr. KELLNER: Yes.

Mr. St. PERE: It is only a question of fifty-fifty.

Mr. KELLNER: No, it is a little different recommending someone you know, than it is going to the records of the Liberal party.

Hon. Mr. CANNON: What I think Mr. St. Pere has in mind, is that whoever has a majority in the House control the political machinery when the election is on, so that would not help very much.

Mr. KELLNER: Well, they do not fire them every time they have an election. When you have a good man conducting an election properly, he is retained.

There is a letter that came in, covering this matter, which I have just mentioned. It is addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer, and it says:—

I noticed by the press of last evening that you have appointed the returning officers, and that they are to be permanent officers in this connection, for the future.

I note further, that in connection with the Wetaskiwin electoral district, N. A. Johnson, veterinary surgeon, was appointed. Unfortunately, Dr. N. A. Johnson died last fall, and it must be an oversight in your appointing him.

This letter was written January the eighteenth, last.

I would point out to you that I was returning officer at the last election held in 1926, and worked under Mr. O. M. Biggar, the then Chief Electoral Officer. I remember his making the recommendation shortly after the election, that the position of returning officer should be made permanent, and I agree in that, as I feel satisfied that the machinery, being established, and knowledge being obtained by the party handling the matter in any district, money can be saved for the country.

Under the circumstances, and as Dr. N. A. Johnson is deceased, I apply for the position, and assure you I would do my utmost to carry on the work in a satisfactory manner. I am sure, if you refer it to Mr. William Irvine, our member, he would approve of my appointment.