

Mr. LADNER: In some cases they had to make payments out of their own pockets.

By the Chairman:

Q. Apart from the question of remuneration were there many complaints?
—A. Very few.

By Mr. Kellner:

Q. I am speaking only from memory now, but I think you stated last year that you thought the Chief Electoral Officers did not have sufficient power in enforcing the administration of the Act. If I am correct in that statement, will you tell us what additional powers the officers require?—A. I do not remember having made that statement.

By the Chairman:

Q. Have you any suggestion to make now concerning proposed amendments to the Act, or do you prefer to come back later on with a prepared statement?—A. I would prefer to wait until later on.

Witness retired.

EDMUND E. STOCKTON of the Office of the Auditor General, called.

By the Chairman:

Q. Give us in a few words the gist of the complaints you have received from returning officers or from the Chief Electoral Officer, or from anybody else, with respect to the remuneration paid to election officers.—A. The chief complaint is that they are not getting enough money.

By Mr. Girouard:

Q. Do you think that complaint is well founded?—A. In some cases, but not in the large percentage of cases.

By Mr. Hanson:

Q. Could you give us a statement which would show the average of what they get, (a) for themselves, and (b) for their clerks?—A. One thing I could give which perhaps would be as good as another would be to consider the province of Manitoba where the provincial subdivisions are few; also the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, where the subdivisions are many. In other words, in the province of Manitoba, the returning officer, being paid on the basis of an electoral subdivision, gets very much less remuneration than the returning officer in Alberta or Saskatchewan where the subdivisions are many, and he is paid on the basis of subdivisions. In New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, we have very few complaints about the actual remuneration; it is usually a question of travelling or other expenses outside of the actual remuneration.

By Mr. Kellner:

Q. Would the work not be correspondingly less in Manitoba?—A. No, not correspondingly less. It would be less due to the fact that they would have a lesser number of polls to provide for, but the actual clerical work in the office is not materially reduced. The returning officer, from the time he gets his appointment by writ, has to devote practically all of his time up to the date of the election.

[Mr. E. E. Stockton.]