

Q. It seems to me that I can foresee a lot of trouble throughout the country in connection with the use of rural postmasters and mail carriers. That does not appeal to me at the present time.

The CHAIRMAN: By "large cities" you mean cities of fifty thousand, sixty thousand or one hundred thousand population.

The WITNESS: Or perhaps some which are smaller.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Growing cities in the west?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Kellner:*

Q. To revert to that statement about the satisfaction with the present method: I have before me a return from the House which contains a letter which I wrote to Colonel Biggar at the time he was Chief Electoral Officer, dated the 29th of March, 1926, and I gave him a record of over one hundred lists of which I did not have a list in the election held October 29, 1925. Manifestly the list would not be any good to the candidate at that time, so I think it is rather absurd to say that to that extent the present system was satisfactory?—A. As I say, I think the quarrel is not so much with the system as with the individuals who were working it. If you get an unsatisfactory individual working any system, it will always be unsatisfactory.

*By Mr. Hanson:*

Q. The personal element of a system such as this is of primary importance?—A. Yes. As a matter of fact, that was the next suggestion I was going to make. That was the next one dealt with in my report.

*By Mr. Kennedy:*

Q. The other day we heard something about the voting. If we had compulsory registration, would that meet the difficulty?—A. It probably would. At all events it would, apart from removals. As a matter of fact, I think it is intimately connected with compulsory voting, because I do not think that is open to be considered until you have a complete list.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. If you had a permanent list it would be easy to drop off that list the names of persons who could not vote?

*By Mr. Boys:*

Q. You cannot prosecute a man for not voting if he is not on the voters' list.

Mr. KENNEDY: You could compel everybody to register once a year.

*By Mr. McPherson:*

Q. In considering a closed list for the Dominion, could it be worked out on the basis of one complete registration throughout the Dominion in a certain year, the registration to be revised every year afterwards, and then drop the names off that list of those who had not voted at the previous election? Start with that, and then revise the list each year?—A. Yes, with constant revision afterwards.

*By Mr. Hanson:*

Q. In those countries where they have compulsory voting do they have compulsory registration?—A. I only know of Australia where compulsory voting is in effect and there they have compulsory registration—complete registration for the whole country.