

train service employees. Then they broadened it, and the Act included sailors and commercial travellers. I may be a little hazy about it, but it seems to me that our Act has been broadened since. I did not look that up.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. But it is still restricted?—A. It is still restricted. It does seem to me that any elector who is entitled to vote, and who can go up there and take a declaration at an advanced poll three days before voting day, stating that he is going to be away on election day, should be allowed to use that poll. Of course, there may be a reason for restricting it. It was understood it was all experimental. We are here to ask if you can do something in this regard.

Q. You are here seeking relief and not suggesting it for other branches.—A. We do not want it broadened so that there will be so much contention that we will lose what we have already got.

Q. Would the railway employees have any objection to the advanced poll itself being fixed on a Saturday, Monday, or Tuesday?—A. It does not make any difference. As a rule, commercial men frequently are at headquarters on a Monday. They get home at the week-end, and in that way they have a chance to vote if the advance poll was, say, on a Saturday.

*By Mr. McPherson:*

Q. Would your trouble be eliminated if the law said it had to take place on a Monday?—A. It might be. Mr. Baker is here. If I have omitted anything he will probably be able to give it to you, or he may be able to polish up the matter a little more.

BYRON BAKER (representing the Railway Transportation Brotherhoods) called.

The WITNESS: I think Mr. Pelletier has covered the ground in good shape. I would just like to say, however, that I have found by experience myself that it is a very difficult matter to locate the Registrar to get that certificate. In the election instructions issued by Colonel Biggar he says that certificates should, if possible, be applied for in business hours during the week preceding the ordinary polling day, and so on. In my case I put the matter off until the evening of the third day before the poll closed, and I am sure I was in at least half a dozen office buildings here on Sparks street. I then went up to Queen street in my endeavour to locate the man I was after, and during my travels from one building to another I met several other railroad men—about 8.30 in the evening—who were leaving on the train due to leave at eleven o'clock, and they finally gave it up in despair. They said, "Well, we won't vote, we have not got the time to monkey around any longer." The result was that they did not vote. However, I found my man over in the Fraser Building on Queen street and got my certificate.

Now, we propose to do away with that registrar's certificate altogether. It is not a bit more important, in my opinion, than this declaration which we propose here, and which is provided for in the Ontario Act. We simply go to the advance poll during the hours that it is open, and the deputy returning officer has forms with this declaration printed thereon, and if I am making the declaration I sign it, and if he or any of the other officers there are doubtful about me they ask me if I will take an oath. That oath is also described in the Election Act, and I can take the oath if I wish.

*By Mr. Kellner:*

Q. You do not have to take the oath?—A. No.

Q. It is optional?—A. Yes, it is optional. This applies to railway men, commercial travellers and sailors. I presume the reason they were picked out

[Mr. Byron Baker.]