

But in view of the provisions of the Act, his appointment was not possible. Section 8 of the Act has to be amended before any such appointment can be made. But as soon as this bill is passed, an appointment will be made and the returning officer will be especially instructed by my office to proceed with the revision of the polling division arrangements of this electoral district so as to provide voting facilities throughout the district.

Mr. McKAY: As generously as possible?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: Well, the instructions are quite generous. For instance, it is stated in the instructions that no one elector should have to travel more than ten miles on a return trip to a polling station. And the electoral district of Yukon-Mackenzie river is all rural and there is no minimum fixed for the number of voters in a polling division.

He may establish one for as few as 10 or 15 electors, if he deems it advisable. In a thickly settled electoral district, I insist upon there being from 250 to 350 electors in a polling division, but this is not the rule that is followed in sparsely settled districts, such as those comprised in Yukon-Mackenzie river.

As I said before I propose to instruct the returning officer to make a thorough revision of the polling division arrangement of the electoral district of Yukon-Mackenzie River. I know the difficulties that exist in such district and I will see that the necessary steps are taken to overcome them.

The establishment of polls in logging camps, also presents some difficulties. The revision of polling division arrangement is not made just shortly before an election is ordered because we never know when this is going to happen. It must necessarily be made several months before. So, at the time of the revision it is not known where the logging camp will be established when the election is ordered.

But the returning officer will be especially instructed to provide voting facilities for persons engaged in the logging camps and to establish new polling divisions if necessary when the election is ordered.

This procedure is followed in other electoral districts where polls in logging camps are expected to be established. It cannot be done a year ahead; it has to be done only after the writs are issued.

Mr. McKAY: In most of these logging camps which the evidence refers to the area is fairly permanent, that is, they would be in a certain area; so a polling booth could be set up somewhere in that district to make it possible for these people to get to the polling area without travelling more than ten miles.

Mr. CASTONGUAY: And with reference to the other point raised in the memorandum: any elector in the electoral district of Yukon-Mackenzie river who lived at one end of the district on the date of the issue of the writ, and who, on polling day finds himself engaged or living 800 or 1,000 miles from there, can still vote, if he is in the electoral district, notwithstanding that his name is not on the list, just so long as he can swear that he ordinarily resided in the electoral district on the date of the issue of the writ.

All the polling divisions in that particular electoral district of Yukon-Mackenzie River are rural and it is possible for any elector to vote on polling day even if he is 800 miles from the place he was on the date of the issue of the writ.

Mr. McKAY: We discussed the other point which was brought up last year in regard to transportation of candidates. I know that is not within your sphere here, but could not a recommendation come from this committee, or from some other source, in regard to that matter? I think it is pretty important and I know does not affect any other part of Canada, at least to the same extent.

The CHAIRMAN: We can consider it.

Mr. MUTCH: It is to provide free transportation for candidates?