

for president every fourth year commencing on even numbers on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November, and for state elections every two years on even numbers on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November.

Hon. Mr. STIRLING: In speaking of the Canadian situation you referred to the population in the ridings. The figures you gave were all percentages of those who voted—those who were on the lists?

Mr. MACNICOL: Yes.

Hon. Mr. STIRLING: So that the Canadian figures you have been referring to really have no bearing on registration.

Mr. MACNICOL: No; only on those who are registered.

The CHAIRMAN: What you meant was that the percentage you gave in connection with Canadian elections is the percentage of the names on the list?

Mr. MACNICOL: Yes.

Hon. Mr. STIRLING: You made reference to population.

Mr. MACNICOL: Mr. Chairman, I will ask that the reporters, instead of using the words "population per riding" will use the words "number on the list" because my percentages apply to the numbers on the list per riding and not to the population per riding.

I think that is about all I can say on the subject. I want to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on the work that has been done, and on the exhaustiveness of the enquiry you have presided over. I am convinced that all of these things are matters of importance. I do not like the word "compulsion" in this country; but if we could get a more applicable word than "compulsion" I might be in favour of seeing the public enrolled that way. As to compulsory voting, it has a lot of merit. If we decide nothing on it today, I would strongly recommend that serious consideration be given to it later.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank Mr. MacNicol for the very exhaustive study he has given to this subject. It has involved a great deal of work, and I certainly appreciate it myself.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. Mr. MacNicol, the members of the committee appreciate your putting these figures on the record. It is not the intention to make a definite finding in connection with either compulsory voting or compulsory registration at present. We are endeavouring to get our record as complete as possible, and we also desire to have a summary of the amendments that have been suggested to the election and franchise committee, put on the record.

Mr. HEAPS: You might make a statement to the effect that your committee has under consideration the question of compulsory registration and voting.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. HEAPS: Without coming to any definite conclusion.

Hon. Mr. STIRLING: It is not customary, I think, to have an index of such work as this, unless it is particularly requested. In this case I think it is most desirable, and almost necessary, that an index be compiled at this time. There have been a lot of statistical figures put on the record, and it would be impossible to refer to them unless an index was made.

The CHAIRMAN: It might be well in making our report to mention that as a recommendation.

Hon. Mr. STIRLING: That is my view.

Mr. MACNICOL: I would suggest that the committee recommend to the house the re-appointment of the same committee next year.

The CHAIRMAN: I hardly think we can go that far.