

*In attendance:* Mr. Harry Butcher, K.C., Counsel to the Committee; Mr. Jules Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer; Mr. Donald Stewart, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer.

Consideration of the draft war service voting regulations was continued.

At 1 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until Friday, April 21, at 11 o'clock a.m.

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FRIDAY, April 21, 1944.

The Special Committee on The Dominion Elections Act, 1938, met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Factor, presiding.

*Members present:* Messrs. Blanchette, Factor, Fair, Gillis, Isnor, Lapointe (*Matapedia-Matane*), MacNicol, McLarty, McNiven.

*In attendance:* Mr. Harry Butcher, K.C., Counsel to the Committee; Mr. Jules Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer; Mr. Donald Stewart, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer.

Consideration of the draft war service voting regulations was continued.

Mr. Butcher read a memorandum that he had prepared as to the meaning of the phrase "during the present war" in which he expressed the opinion that the war would not be legally terminated until a proclamation of peace had been issued.

On motion of Mr. MacNicol:

*Resolved*,—That the regulations be amended to permit special returning officers to vote, and that their votes be cast before their chief assistants.

Mr. Isnor moved:

That the Committee recommend that provision be made, either by amendment to the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, or otherwise, that every person who, while on Active Service with the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada, became a prisoner of war and is officially recorded as such at Headquarters, shall be entitled to vote by proxy, on a special certificate issued by the Chief Electoral Officer. Such certificate shall be issued not earlier than two weeks before polling day to the person officially recorded at Headquarters as the next of kin of such prisoner of war, provided such next of kin is qualified to vote as a civilian elector in the electoral district in which the prisoner of war ordinarily resided prior to his enlistment.

After discussion, it was decided to allow this motion to stand as a notice of motion until the next meeting.

Mr. Gillis raised the question as to how war service electors outside of Canada could best be informed of the aims of the various political parties. It was decided that discussion of this matter be deferred until the next meeting.

At 1 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until Tuesday, April 25, at 11 o'clock a.m.

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TUESDAY, April 25, 1944.

The Special Committee on The Dominion Elections Act, 1938, met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Factor, presiding.

*Members present:* Messrs. Blanchette, Factor, Fair, Gillis, Isnor, MacKenzie (*Neepawa*), MacNicol, McCuaig, McLarty, McNiven.

*In attendance:* Mr. Harry Butcher, K.C., Counsel to the Committee; Mr. Jules Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer; Mr. Donald Stewart, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer.

The Committee resumed consideration of a motion made at the previous meeting by Mr. Isnor and the question being put, it was