

*By Mr. MacNicol:*

Q. What I was trying to point out in reference to the spoiled ballots is this: While the percentage is much lower in Canada than it is in Australia, more people vote in Australia, and in addition to the large number who vote, there are those who conscientiously spoil their ballots, and that number is larger per riding in Australia than in Canada. However, I do not claim that is any reflection on compulsory voting.

Mr. HEAPS: I was pointing out that the view taken by Mr. MacNicol is not correct, because in 1919 when they did not have compulsory voting the percentage of spoiled ballots was greater than they are under compulsory voting.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hooper gave the following information in answer to Mr. Heaps:—

The percentage of rejected ballots they were unable to find for me in the previous election, the first figure of rejected ballots was in 1920, when it was 1·72; in 1922 the percentage dropped to 1·66; in 1927 the figures are not conclusive. The spoiled ballots and the rejected ones got mixed and could never be separated. In 1932 the percentage of spoiled ballots dropped to 1·44.

Mr. MACNICOL: The greatest number of spoiled ballots was in 1928 under compulsory voting, when the percentage was 4·90.

WITNESS: That is in my report.

The CHAIRMAN: We were dealing, Mr. MacNicol, with compulsory voting and compulsory registration of voters. That is the subject that was under discussion at the last meeting and Mr. Butcher was asked to obtain certain additional information regarding spoiled ballots and so on.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: That is the report.

Mr. MACNICOL: I can give little additional information.

The CHAIRMAN: That is all you have on compulsory voting.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Mr. MacNicol was not here last day.

Mr. HEAPS: May I ask if any other countries other than Australia have compulsory voting?

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Do you know of any other country where they have compulsory voting?  
—A. I have not been able to discover any other countries.

Mr. MACNICOL: Compulsory voting commenced in 1915 in the state election Queensland, in federal election in 1924.

*By Mr. Heaps:*

Q. Is there any indication so far as Australia is concerned of their going back?—A. No; according to the statement of the chief electoral officer they are satisfied.

Q. Have you worked out any plan which would give an indication as to what it would cost if we had compulsory voting in Canada, compared with the present system?—A. I do not see how it could be done, because it would depend on the system employed. For instance, in Australia, they use policemen, postmasters, and all kinds of public officials.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Mail carriers.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Butcher has already stated that he has asked for additional information from Australia from which he can work out factors to aid him in making a comparison, and from the information he will be able to give us the figures.

[Mr. Harry Butcher.]