

slightest difficulty in the world with these lists so far as they contained the names of people. The only quarrel with that kind of a list would be that people would not take the trouble to get themselves on it.

Q. Would it be absolutely essential that each individual voter should look after himself in that regard?—A. Yes, it would be essential because you never see the voter. If you take applications from anybody, you would find that list loaded up with non-existent people.

Q. That might hold in the cities, but I do not see why it would hold good in the country where everybody practically is known to everybody else.—A. There was one possibility suggested which again presents some additional disadvantages and some additional advantages. The real difficulty with the present system is only in the cities, and really only in the large cities. I think the system works to the general satisfaction of the rural areas where the population does not change quickly. It is entirely satisfactory, I know, in the west—

Q. Not entirely.—A. In the rural areas.

Q. With one or two striking exceptions.—A. I know there have been exceptions. That was a circumstance which I hope can be remedied by adopting the proposal to which I am coming. It is a subject upon which Mr. Castonguay has already presented a draft proposal. The trouble you refer to was misfortune in the appointment of the election officer.

*By Mr. McPherson:*

Q. I hardly think you are correct in saying it is satisfactory in the country. You may not have received any complaints, but there is one big drawback in the west, and that is that the lists were not available until election day.—A. That is practically true. That is always a trouble, and it is inevitable; you cannot help it. Under the present system the registration work is not over until the ninth day before the polling day, but even then the lists are not closed, and they are satisfactory because nobody cares much whether there is a list or not.

*By Mr. Hanson:*

Q. If the nominations were made two weeks before the polling, and a provision made that the lists should be in by registration day, would that help us any?

*By Mr. Boys:*

Q. Colonel Biggar, from your experience do you really believe that your suggestion regarding the closed lists would be preferable to the plan outlined in the Act?—A. I am sure it would prevent a great deal of quarreling with the present machinery in the cities.

Q. Supposing it was left entirely to you; do you really believe that you could bring into force a closed list?—A. In the cities? I think so.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You are so sure about the country?—A. No, I do not think the public is ready for that.

*By Mr. Boys:*

Q. Do you mean large cities, or urban centres with a population of five thousand or so?—A. I think you would have to make a selection. That is to say, you would have lists of that kind in those cities where there was a considerable movement of population. That means very large cities, and some comparatively small ones, where people do not know each other. That is what it would amount to.