

Q. Why do you think it should be?—A. Well, supposing you were one of us, Mr. Boys, and you go there and get that certificate. Very well, you vote; you make a declaration. But supposing you have not got a certificate, and you go there and want to vote as one of those covered by the advance poll, and you take your oath, yet you cannot vote. We fail to see why it is that you cannot vote.

Q. Cannot any elector do that if he wants to?—A. He could, if he was one of those described in the advance poll.

Q. What is the population of Chapleau?—A. About 1,200, I think.

*By Mr. Anderson (Toronto-High Park):*

Q. Is there any greater virtue in a declaration taken before the revising officer than before the deputy?—A. None at all. Take Chapleau, for instance. The returning officer, or the deputy returning officer may be visiting there on a certain day, but that particular day may not suit all the men, and they are unable to make their declaration. The chances are that many of them would be out, and that is what happens.

*By Mr. Boys:*

Q. I do not know that I entirely understand the Ontario Act which you seem to be so desirous of adopting. What is the provision? What does the man do? Does he just go to the poll and say, "I am so and so"?—A. He makes a declaration that he may be absent from his place of residence and wants to vote there. There is a larger vote cast in the provincial elections in Ontario than there is in the federal election, and there is no difficulty in the working out of the system in Ontario. We do not see why there should be any difficulties in connection with the Dominion Elections Act.

*By Mr. Kennedy:*

Q. Is there any reason why this advance poll privilege, or whatever we like to call it, should be restricted to railway employees, sailors and commercial travellers?—A. Well, it was on account of their occupations, because they were away from home on the polling day and were unable to cast their votes. In other words, they were disfranchised.

Q. Suppose other voters are similarly situated; is there any reason why they should not be entitled to the same privilege?—A. I have an idea that it is broader than is stated in this old Act. There have been amendments to this Act since it was put in.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Mr. Kennedy's question was as to why other classes of labour should not be entitled to the same privilege. Has labour any objection to any other class of persons who may be absent on election day receiving the same privilege?—A. No, no. You only increase the difficulty under the Act, according to our experience.

*By Mr. Lapierre:*

Q. You would have no objection to prospectors, and men working in mines, and so forth, being granted the same privilege?—A. No, none whatever.

*By Mr. Ladner:*

Q. So far as labour is concerned, or the organization which you represent, which I understand to be the railway employees, is there any objection to that principle being extended to other classes?—A. No. May I point out that the first Ontario Act was amended later to entirely refer to railway employees,

[Mr. L. L. Pelletier.]