

EVENING SESSION

The committee resumed at 8.30 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, Mr. Robinson was to have been here and I presume he will be here in a moment.

We have a number of communications which I shall place before you. One is from a legal firm in Toronto and it is addressed to me, suggesting that revising officers should not necessarily live in the ridings for which they are appointed. Is that one of the requisites of the Act?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: Yes, it is one of the requisites of the Act.

The CHAIRMAN: They say there is great difficulty in large cities in getting qualified people to act, and they also think they should have their fees increased by 50 per cent.

There is another communication from Mrs. Martin, addressed to Mr. Smith, M.P., speaking about the taking of votes of those who are, unfortunately, confined to their homes; and there is still another communication, from Mr. Timmins with respect to bed ridden patients in hospitals.

There is a further communication from the Société Nationale St-Jean Baptiste, of the City of Quebec having to do with several matters in the bill.

We will table these communications and discuss them at a later meeting. We will now give Mr. Robinson a few minutes.

Mr. MACNICOL: Is he here?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, but unfortunately he is not yet in the room. We were able to reach him and he said he would be here.

Gentlemen, as a matter of courtesy, we undertook to have Mr. Robinson here and we did notify him of the 8.30 appointment and he said he would be here. We have no other business except to hear him, if he comes.

Mr. MCKAY: Is that all we are going to deal with tonight.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes; but in the meantime Mr. Castonguay can answer what was brought up this afternoon by Mr. McKay. Will you go ahead, Mr. Castonguay.

Mr. MACNICOL: In the meantime, perhaps Mr. Castonguay could familiarize us with just what the situation is with respect to sealers votes. Mr. Robinson told me there are about 40 ship captains who live in his town, but who are often away for months at a time. What is the present situation with reference to sealers?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: The only privilege that mariners have, under the Dominion Act, is that of voting at advance polls.

Mr. MACNICOL: That is all they have now?

Mr. CASTONGUAY: That is all they have now; and in order to vote at an advance poll a person must be in his home town during the three days preceding the ordinary polling day that the advance polls are open. In other words, if a person, let us say, from Kingston, is in Toronto, during these three days, he is not able to vote in Toronto, and he must be in Kingston for those three days to be able to vote at his advanced poll. The privileges are the same as are granted to commercial travellers.

Mr. McKay, among the suggestions you have made, there are two which concern my office and the first one of these is the establishing of polling divisions or polling booths in the electoral district of Yukon-Mackenzie river.

The size of the electoral district of Yukon-Mackenzie river is fully appreciated, and if it had been possible, prior to this date to appoint a returning officer, instructions would already have been sent to him to proceed with the work of establishing polling divisions and polling booths throughout this electoral district.