

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 277,

THURSDAY, May 6, 1948.

The Special Committee on the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, met this day at 2.30 p.m.

Members present: Messrs. Beaudry, Bertrand (*Prescott*), Brooks, Cournoyer, Fair, Harris (*Grey-Bruce*), MacInnis, MacNicol, Marquis, McKay, McLure, Murphy, Richard (*Gloucester*), Sinclair.

In attendance: Hon. C. W. G. Gibson, Secretary of State; Mr. Jules Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer, and Mr. Nelson Castonguay, Executive Assistant.

The Clerk read the various Orders of Reference and he invited the members to appoint a Chairman.

On motion of Mr. MacNicol, seconded by Mr. Marquis, Mr. W. E. Harris (*Grey-Bruce*), was unanimously elected Chairman.

The Chairman took the Chair and thanked the members for the honour bestowed upon him.

The Committee then proceeded with its organization.

Mr. Fair moved,

That the Committee request that the quorum of the Committee be eight members and that Section 3 of Standing Order 65 be suspended in relation thereto.

In amendment thereto, Mr. MacInnis moved that the number of the quorum be 10.

And the question having been put on the amendment by Mr. MacInnis, it was resolved in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. McLure, it was

Resolved,—That leave be sought from the House to sit while the House is sitting.

On motion of Mr. Richard (*Gloucester*) it was

Resolved,—That under the authority granted under the terms of the Order of Reference, 500 copies in English and 200 copies in French of the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence of the Committee be printed from day to day.

The Chairman explained the program before the Committee.

The question of a Steering Committee was discussed, but was left in abeyance until a later date.

Mr. Jules Castonguay filed with the Committee a number of proposed amendments to the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, and also a copy of a letter from the Deputy Minister of Justice explaining the nature of the changes in Bill No. 198, An Act to amend the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, as compared with the Draft Bill presented to the House at the last session.