

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

COMMITTEE ROOM 425,
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
THURSDAY, May 1, 1930.

The Special Committee on the Dominion Elections Act met at 10.30 o'clock, Mr. W. A. Bothwell, Acting Chairman, presiding.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: In connection with the last item on the minutes of proceedings, Mr. Telford's reference to mariners voting by proxy, there is a letter addressed to the Clerk of the Election Committee, House of Commons, which reads as follows:

A. A. FRASER, Esq.,
Clerk of Election Committee,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont.

Replying to your letter of the 8th inst., with regard to Mariners voting by proxy, I am afraid I cannot give you any statistics as to the number of these without inquiries from the Judges in the different Counties.

I know that a considerable number voted by proxy at Midland and Victoria Harbour and I think that in other places the amendment made in the Session of 1929 would have been used if Mariners had been aware of the change.

Our Election last Fall was held after most of the passenger boats had tied up. The Midland group came to my attention because my decision was required in a difficulty that had arisen. I am quite sure that in that case at least the section worked quite satisfactorily and I can see no reason why, with proper safeguards, there should be any danger in such a matter. At the same time I do not think it has yet had quite a fair trial.

Yours very truly,
ALLAN M. DYMOND.

At the second last meeting, Number 3 proceedings, Mr. Neill addressed the meeting, offering some criticism to the Dominion Elections Act, and suggested certain amendments. In that connection, I understand from the clerk that the Chief Electoral Officer was to file a memorandum. I have that memorandum, dated April 9, 1930. It reads as follows:

OTTAWA, April 9, 1930.

Memorandum for the Special Committee of the House of Commons on the Dominion Elections Act on the subject of the suggestions of amendments to the said Act made by Mr. Neill, M.P.

With regard to the first point raised by Mr. Neill on the subject of the list of registrars, I wish to state that there has not been any change in the provision with respect to this list, except that it has been taken out of Schedules A and B and now appears in subsection 3 of Section 32 of the Act.

The next point relates to the notice posted by rural registrars and I wish to state that Form 20 as it appears on page 218 of the Election Instructions fully meets the difficulty complained of.

Mr. Neill's next point relates to the manner in which the name of a married woman should appear on the list of voters and I wish to state