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Canada, Parliament, House of Commons,
Standing Committee on Privileges and
Elections

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS (No. 1)

House of Commons, Room 268,
Wednesday, June 10, 1931.

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections met this day at eleven o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Hanson presiding.

The following members were present: Messrs. Anderson, Burns, Casgrain, Casselman, Duff, Elliott, Esling, Gray, Hanson, Jacobs, Lapointe, Lawson, MacNicol, Stinson, Thompson, Turnbull.

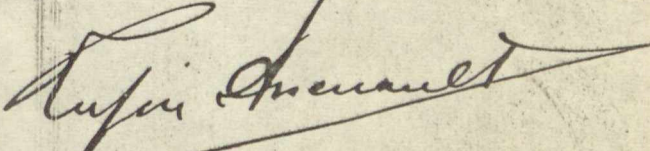
The chairman read the Order of Reference of June 4, relative to an inquiry into the registration and polling of the votes or other related matter in connection with the election in the electoral division of Simcoe East, on July 28, 1930.

On motion of Mr. Thompson,
Resolved that the following persons be summonsed to appear before the Committee at 11 o'clock a.m., on Thursday, June 18:-

Alexander Campbell, Port McNicoll, Ont.
Frederick Benjamin Chidwick, Port McNicoll, Ont.
Dennis Arthur Daley, Port McNicoll, Ont.
James G. Harvie, Orillia, Ont.
Jos. J. D. McNamara, Penetanguishene, Ont.
James G. Young, Port McNicoll, Ont.
Jules Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer, Ottawa.
Colonel O. M. Biggar, K.C., Ottawa.

Mr. Lawson referred to the advice given the Chief Electoral Officer by Colonel Biggar, as suggested by correspondence included in the Return laid on the Table of the House on May 27, and stated that in his opinion any memorandum confirming such advice should be produced before the Committee. After some discussion on the nature of the documents to be produced, the Chairman called the attention of the Committee to Section 76 of the Dominion Elections Act 1927, subsection (5) of which provides that no other documents than those referred to under subsection (2) "shall be inspected or produced except under a rule or order of a Superior Court or of a judge thereof."

The Committee then adjourned till Thursday, June 18, at 11 o'clock a.m.


Clerk of the Committee

Minutes of Proceedings (No. 2)

House of Commons, Room 268,
Thursday, June 18, 1931.

The Committee came to order at 11 o'clock, the Chairman, Mr. Hanson presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Anderson, Casgrain, Dupré, Elliott, Esling, Gagnon, Gray, Hanson, Jacobs, Lapointe, Lawson, MacDonald, MacNicol, Morand, Spencer, Stinson, Thompson, Turnbull.

On motion of Mr. MacNicol seconded by Mr. Stinson, it was agreed that the Committee report to the House recommending that it be given leave to print, from day to day, the minutes of proceedings and evidence taken, also such papers and documents as may be directed by the Committee to be printed for the use of the Committee and of Members of the House, and that Standing Order 64 be suspended in relation thereto.

The following witnesses were called, sworn, examined and discharged:

James C. Young, Port McNicoll, Ont.; Alexander Campbell, Port McNicoll, Ont.; Frederick Benjamin Chidwick, Port McNicoll, Ont.; James G. Harvie, Barrister, Orillia, Ont.; Patrick J. McCormick, Port McNicoll, Ont.; and Dennis Arthur Daley, Port McNicoll, Ont.

At the request of the Committee, Mr. Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer produced the following documents:

The Original list of Poll No. 1, of Port McNicoll, electoral district of Simcoe East, as prepared by the Enumerator;

The revised List of Poll No. 1, of Port McNicoll, electoral district of Simcoe East, supplied to the Deputy Returning Officer of said Poll;

The poll book of said Poll No. 1, of Port McNicoll, letters A to L inclusive; and

The poll book of said poll No. 1, of Port McNicoll, letters M to Z inclusive.

The above were admitted as evidence and filed as Exhibits Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

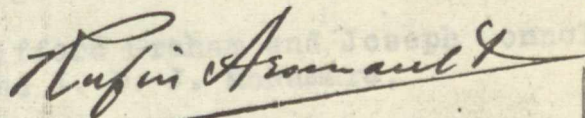
On motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Gagnon, the Clerk was instructed to provide for payment of witness fees and allowances to Mr. Patrick J. McCormick whose name appears on the list of witnesses as above stated.

On motion of Mr. Lawson seconded by Mr. MacNicol, the Clerk was also instructed to issue subpoenas to the following persons requesting their attendance before the Committee on Tuesday, June 23rd, at 11 a.m., viz:

William Ramsay, Port McNicoll, Ontario,
Joseph Connolly, Port McNicoll, Ontario,
Clifford Graham, Port McNicoll, Ontario.

Mr. J.D.J. McNamara, one of the witnesses summoned to appear before the Committee this date, was also instructed to be again in attendance on Tuesday, June 23rd.

On motion of Mr. Gray the Committee adjourned till 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, June 23rd.



Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(103)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 268,

Tuesday, June 23, 1931.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman Mr. Hanson presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Anderson, Cassgrain, Elliott, Esling, Gagnon, Gray, Hanson, Lapointe, Lawson, MacDonald, MacNicol, Mercier, Morand, Spencer, Stinson, Sullivan, Thompson, Turnbull. 18.

The following witnesses were in attendance and, after being examined, were duly discharged:

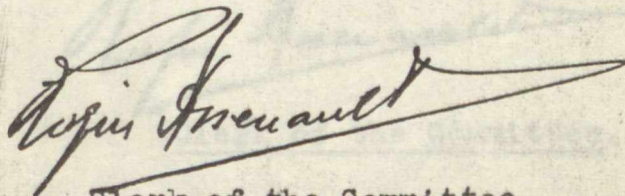
Messrs. William Ramsay, Clifford Graham and Joseph Connolly, all of Port McNicoll, Ontario, and J. D. J. McNamara, Penetanguishene, Ontario.

Jules Castonguay, Esq., Chief Electoral Officer and Col. O. M. Biggar, K.C., Legal adviser to the Chief Electoral Officer for the Federal Elections of July 28th, 1930, were also in attendance.

Mr. Biggar having been called to give evidence, was asked to be again in attendance at the next sitting of the Committee and then, after having perused the evidence adduced before the Committee, to submit his opinion as to whether or not Alexander Campbell and Frederick Benjamin Chidwick who appeared before the Committee on the 18th inst. were entitled to vote on the 28th of July last; also to offer any suggestion which would enable the Committee to take into consideration some amendment to the Elections Act in connection with the interpretation of the term "residence".

At the suggestion of Mr. Elliott, it was agreed that the Chief Electoral Officer produce, for the next meeting of the Committee, the Victoria Harbour file in connection with the Elections of July 28th 1930.

The Committee then adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 25th.



Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS (No. 4)

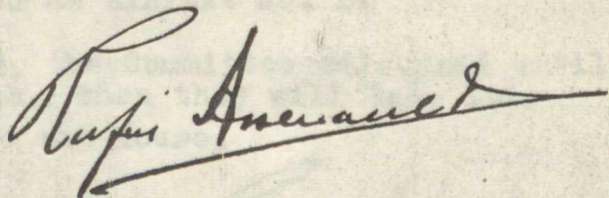
HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 268,
Thursday, June 25, 1931.

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Hanson presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Burns, Casgrain, Elliott, Esling, Gray, Hanson, Lawson, Morand, Stinson, Thompson. - 10.

Col. O. M. Biggar, K.C., and Jules Castonguay, Esq., Chief Electoral Officer were also in attendance.

The Chairman having suggested that it might be advisable not to proceed with the business of the Committee this morning on account of several other important Committees of the House meeting at the same hour, it was unanimously agreed that the Committee adjourn until Tuesday, the 7th July, at 11 a.m.



Clerk of the Committee.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS (No. 5)

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 268,
Tuesday, July 7, 1931.

Elliott The Committee met at 11 o'clock. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Hanson, it was unanimously agreed, on motion of Mr. Casgrain, that Mr. MacDonald (Cape Breton-South) act as Chairman.

Members present: Messrs. Beaubien, Casgrain, Casselman, Duff, Gagnon, Gray, Lawson, MacDonald, MacNicol, McPhee, Mercier, Morand, Stinson, Thompson, Turnbull. - 15.

Col. O. M. Biggar, K.C., and Mr. Jules Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer were also in attendance.

The Clerk was called upon to read the minutes of the last Meeting, and these were adopted.

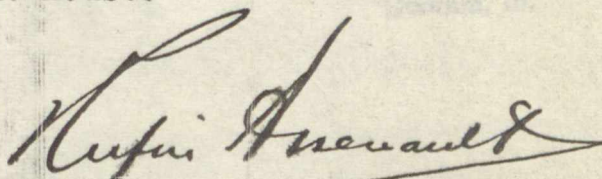
Mr. Biggar read a memorandum prepared at the request of the Committee, in which he expressed his opinion as to whether, in the light of all the facts brought out in evidence, the witnesses Alexander Campbell and Frederick Benjamin Chidwick are to be held to have been ordinarily resident in the electoral district of East Simcoe, on May 30th 1930.

On motion of Mr. Mercier, it was agreed that Mr. Biggar have permission to supply the official Reporter with a copy of said memorandum.

The witness was allowed to withdraw with the understanding that he would be advised by the Clerk if his attendance was again required at the next meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Castonguay then submitted a "Statement of changes and additions made by the Rural Registrar in the Preliminary Voters' list" for Polling Division No. 1, of Port McNicoll. This was admitted as evidence and filed as Exhibit No. 5.

On motion of Mr. Lawson, the Committee adjourned until 11 a.m., on Tuesday, July 14th., when they will take into consideration their Report to the House.


Clerk of the Committee.

1931

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE

-ON-

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Attached motion by Mr. Lawson
A & Gagnon. July 14, 1931. Attendance Sheet

MESSRS.	YEA	NAY	MESSRS.	YEA	NAY	MESSRS.	YEA	NAY
Anderson (Toronto-High Park)			Gray		✓	Morand	✓	
Beaubien			Hanson (York-Sunbury)			Ralston		
Burns			Jacobs			Spencer	✓	
Casgrain		✓	Lapointe		✓	Stinson		
Casselman			Lawson	✓		Sullivan		
Duff		✓	Lennox			Thompson (Simcoe East)	✓	
Dupré			MacDonald (Cape Breton South)	✓		Turnbull	✓	
Elliott		✓	MacNicol	✓				
Esling			Marcil					
Gagnon	✓		McPhee					
Gardiner			Mercier (St. Henri)					
						Total		

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Members, 29.

Quorum, 10.

House of Commons, Room 268,
Tuesday, July 14, 1931.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Hanson presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Casgrain, Duff, Elliott, Gagnon, Gray, Hanson, Lapointe, Lawson, MacDonald, MacNicol, Mowand, Spencer, Thompson, Turnbull. - 14.

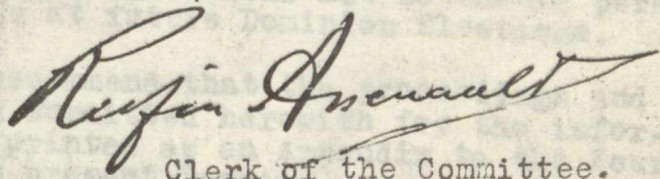
The Committee having proceeded to consider their final Report on the matters referred to them under date of June 4th, Mr. Lawson moved, seconded by Mr. Gagnon:-

"That in the opinion of the Committee, having regard to the fact that it is the intention of the Dominion Elections Act to enfranchise as many voters as possible ^{other} under the residence provisions if they have the qualifications, those in situations similar to that of Messrs. Chidwick and Campbell should have been entitled to vote.

This Committee therefore recommends that the necessary amendments be made to the Dominion Elections Act to enable persons similarly situated to vote at future Dominion Elections."

and after discussion thereon, said Resolution carried on the following division: Yeas 8; Nays 5.

The Committee then adjourned until Thursday, July 16th, at 11 a.m., to consider the adoption of their final Report to the House.


Clerk of the Committee.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

SECOND AND FINAL REPORT

Thursday, July 16, 1931.

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections beg leave to present the following as their Second and Final Report:-

Your Committee have had before them an Order of Reference of the House under date of June 4th, 1931, namely:-

Ordered. - "That all correspondence and other communications in the possession of the Government relating to the preparation of the voters' list for the municipality of Port McNicoll, in the riding of Simcoe East, and a copy of the original list prepared by the enumerator, and of the revised list as prepared by him for use on election day, together with a copy of any communications exchanged between the Chief Electoral Officer and the returning officer or any other person as to the conduct of the poll on election day, laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, the 27th May, 1931, be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections with instructions to inquire fully into the registration and polling of the votes or other related matter in connection with the election in the electoral division of Simcoe East, on July 28, 1930."

Your Committee have inquired into the matters referred to them under the terms of the above Reference and have held five meetings in the course of which they have heard twelve witnesses. After having perused the evidence adduced before them, your Committee beg leave to report as follows:-

That in the opinion of the Committee, having regard to the fact that it is the intention of the Dominion Elections Act to enfranchise as many voters as possible under the residence provisions if they have the other qualifications those in situations similar to that of Messrs. Chidwick and Campbell should have been entitled to vote.

Your Committee therefore recommend that the necessary amendments be made to the Dominion Elections Act to enable persons similarly situated to vote at future Dominion Elections.

Your Committee also recommend that the proceedings and evidence, a copy of which is submitted herewith for the information of Parliament, be printed as an Appendix to the Journals of the House for the present Session.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. -B. HANSON,
Chairman.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS, Room 268,
Thursday, July 16, 1931.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman,
Mr. Hanson presiding.

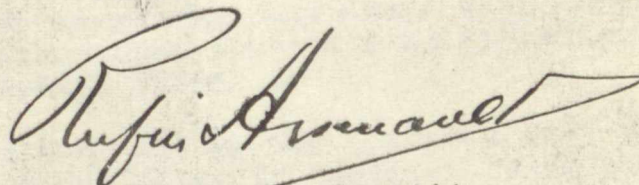
The following Members were present: Messrs. Burns,
Casgrain, Elliott, Gagnon, Hanson, Lawson, MacDonald, MacNicol,
Spencer, Stinson, Sullivan, Thompson, Turnbull. - 13.

On motion of Mr. MacNicol it was unanimously agreed
that the Minutes of meetings held on June 10, 18, 23, and
25, and on July 7 and 14 stand as read.

Consideration having been given to a draft Report
incorporating the Resolution adopted at the previous meeting,
Mr. Lawson moved, seconded by Mr. Thompson, that said Report
be adopted as the Second and Final Report of this Committee.
Motion carried on division.

(Copy of Report annexed hereto.)

The Committee then adjourned sine die.



Clerk of the Committee.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

First Meeting - 1932.

Minutes of Proceedings

House of Commons, Room 429.
Thursday, February 18, 1932.

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections met at 11 a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Hanson, presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Anderson, Casgrain, Duff, Elliott, Ewing, Hanson, Jacobs, Lapointe, MacDonald, MacNicol, McPherson, Mitchell, Morand, Ralston, Stinson, Thompson, Turnbull. -17.

The Chairman acquainted the Members with the object of the meeting by reading the following Resolution referred to them by the House on February 15th:

"Resolved, Whereas during the session of 1931, a special Committee was appointed to investigate the 'Beauharnois Development' and
Whereas it was shown that enormous sums of money had been contributed for political campaign funds;
Be it resolved: That in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Committee on Privileges and Elections consider and report upon the question of election funds and draft such amendments to the Election Act as may be considered necessary."

Mr. Mitchell addressed the Committee stating he had not expected that the matter referred under the terms of the above Resolution would be dealt with very extensively at this preliminary meeting. He however expressed the opinion that in the light of the report submitted at the last session by the Committee appointed to inquire into the Beauharnois Development, the present Committee should consider what legislation could be adopted in order to prevent any abuse with respect to election expenses, rather than institute an investigation into the question of campaign funds.

Following a suggestion made by the Chairman that the Committee decide in the first place if campaign funds should or should not be permitted under the system of holding elections in Canada, Mr. Turnbull moved, seconded by Mr. Morand:

"That, in the opinion of this Committee, election campaign funds are legitimate and necessary."

A general discussion followed as to devising ways and means of reducing the cost of elections, the suggestion being

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

First Meeting - 1932.

Minutes of Proceedings

House of Commons, Room 429.

Thursday, February 18, 1932.

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections met at 11 a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Hanson, presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Anderson, Casgrain, Duff, Elliott, Esling, Hanson, Jacobs, Lapointe, MacDonald, MacNicol, McPhee, Mitchell, Morand, Ralston, Stinson, Thompson, Turnbull.-17.

The Chairman acquainted the Members with the object of the meeting by reading the following Resolution referred to them by the House on February 11th:

"Resolved, -Whereas during the session of 1931, a special Committee was appointed to investigate the 'Beauharnois Development' and Whereas it was shown that enormous sums of money had been contributed for political campaign funds; Be it resolved: That in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Committee on Privileges and Elections consider and report upon the question of election funds and draft such amendments to the Election Act as may be considered necessary."

Mr. Mitchell addressed the Committee stating he had not expected that the matters referred under the terms of the above Resolution would be dealt with very extensively at this preliminary meeting. He however expressed the opinion that in the light of the report submitted at the last session by the Committee appointed to inquire into the Beauharnois Development, the present Committee should consider what legislation could be enacted in order to prevent any abuse with respect to election expenses, rather than institute an investigation into the question of campaign funds.

Following a suggestion made by the Chairman that the Committee decide in the first place if campaign funds should or should not be permitted under the system of holding elections in Canada, Mr. Turnbull moved, seconded by Mr. Morand:

"That, in the opinion of this Committee, election campaign funds are legitimate and necessary."

A general discussion followed as to devising ways and means of reducing the cost of elections, the suggestion being

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Minutes of Proceedings (No. 2)-continued.

(See Minutes of Proceedings)

made that, without endorsing the principle of compulsory voting, a middle course might be followed by striking off the list the name of an elector who failed to exercise his franchise, or that the lists be closed on the date the Writs are issued. The opinion seemed to prevail that the motion should not be dealt with too hastily, and it was agreed to let it stand for further consideration.

Finally, it was agreed that the Committee look into the legislation which obtains in the other Dominions, the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Castonguay, being asked to supply the Clerk with the necessary references.

It was unanimously agreed, on the ground of economy, that the Proceedings be not reported, the Minutes of the Clerk being deemed sufficient.

The Committee than adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Rufin Arsenault

Clerk of the Committee.

COPY OF

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY MR. MITCHELL, M.P.,

MARCH 4th, 1932.

(See Minutes of Proceedings)

To the Members of Elections and Privileges Committee:-

Gentlemen, -

The terms of reference are embodied in the resolution passed unanimously by the House on February 11th, 1932, as follows:-

"Whereas during the session of 1932 a special Committee was appointed to investigate the 'Beauharnois power development' and 'Whereas it was shown that enormous sums of money had been contributed for political campaign funds,
"Be it resolved; That in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Committee on Privileges and Elections consider and report upon the question of elections funds and draft such amendments to the elections act as may be considered necessary."

The present law respecting campaign funds differs little from the first Dominion Act passed in the year 1874. It reflected the importance of the individual rather than the party in its provisions dealing with the subject of campaign funds. The present law does not recognize the existence of organizations that dispose of large sums of money for campaign purposes outside of the local organization of the candidate. This is its cardinal weakness. The approach to the problem should be from this viewpoint, having clearly in mind the revelations of Beauharnois enquiry and its effect upon public opinion. Primarily the problem is to bring within the scope of the law the receipts and disbursements of all campaign funds of central political organizations or otherwise; this should also include donations from the central political organization to the local units.

All political organizations or any other organization who directly or indirectly participate in an election shall submit to the Chief Electoral Officer a sworn itemized statement of income and expenditures duly audited and certified by a qualified independent auditor. This shall be prepared in exactly the same manner as a candidate's statement, within one month after the declaration of the election, failure to carry out the terms of such a provision shall make any such officer or officers liable to penalties hereby provided for. The first annual report succeeding an election the expenditures ~~shall~~ and income of all political organizations who directly or indirectly have participated in an election, shall be submitted to the House by the Chief Electoral Officer.

If at any future time after due enquiry it is found that the facts regarding campaign funds are not made known to the Chief Electoral Officer, such individual shall be guilty of ~~misconduct~~

Memo. by Mr. Mithhell (continued).

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contravention of the Act and be liable for the penalties provided for.

The Chief Electoral Officer, upon receiving information of the provisions of the Act or having knowledge of any such contravention, shall have power to institute such proceedings as ~~are~~ are deemed necessary and at such places where the contraventions have occurred.

The purpose behind the suggestions herein made are to compel publication - as far as possible by law - of all campaign funds from whatever source they may emanate and all the receipts of same. I consider that the light of publicity is the greatest safeguard electors have regarding the abuse of campaign funds and I trust the Committee will give these proposals their serious and favourable consideration.

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Memorandum re Election expenses as provided for in Election Acts of Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, Ireland and Newfoundland

AUSTRALIA:

Electoral Act of 1918 (revised in 1922) page 259, section 145 to 154.

Amended in 1924 (Vol. XXII p. 26) for the purpose of making provision for Compulsory Voting. (See also attached extract of Memo. by Col. Biggar).

New Zealand:

"The Legislature Act, 1908"--Section 169 to 177. See also attached extract from Memorandum of Colonel Biggar.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA:

"Electoral Act, 1918"--Section 67 to 106 "Election expenses and corrupt practices".

Amended in 1926.

IRISH FREE STATE:

"Electoral Act, 1923"--Page 267.--"All the provisions relating to bribery, personation or corrupt practices at elections, etc. which are contained in any statute and were in force on the 23rd day of December, 1920, and have not been repealed by this Act, shall apply.....(Sec. 59, page 333).

NEWFOUNDLAND:

"Election Act of 1913". Corrupt and Illegal practices, (Sec. 137 to 166).

Amendments: 1929, Cap. II, page 3.

Extract from Memorandum made by Mr. O.M. Biggar, dated November 28th, 1923, re Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1918 (No.27 of 1918, as amended by No.31 of 1919, No.14 of 1921 and No.14 of 1922).

Election Expenses: Expenses are limited in a Senate election to £250, and in an election for the House to £100. Money may be spent only on advertising, notices, stationery, messages, committee rooms, halls and scrutineers, and no one may incur or authorize any electoral expense without the written authority of the candidate who, within eight weeks, must make a return of all expenses and disputed or unpaid claims. A like return must be made by any organization or person who has incurred any expense in the interest of any candidate or political party. The Chief Electoral Officer may call on any such organization for a return. Every newspaper must also make a return of the space allotted to electoral matter on payment and the amount of money paid or payable therefor. (ss.145 to 153).

.....

Extract from a memorandum made by Mr. O.M. Biggar, K.C., dated December 4th, 1923, re New Zealand Legislature Act, 1908 (1908, No.101, as amended by 1910, No.59, 1911, No.19, 1914, No.33 and 1919, No. 16).

Election Expenses: The total expenses are limited to £ 200, and a return has to be made to the returning officer. There appears, however, to be no prohibition against others that the candidate paying expenses beyond its being declared a corrupt practice to pay or abet in the payment of expenses exceeding £200, on behalf of any candidate. (1908, ss.169 to 176).

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

1932 - No. 2.

Minutes of Proceedings.

House of Commons, Room 429.
Friday, March 4th, 1932.

The Committee met at 10.30 a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Hanson presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Anderson, Casgrain, Elliott, Esling, Gagnon, Gray, Kennedy (Peace River), Hanson, MacDonald, Jacobs, MacNicol, McPhee, Morand, Ralston, Thompson, Turnbull. - 16.

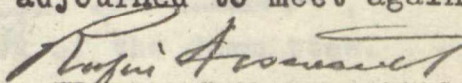
The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Mitchell, M.P., expressing his regrets for being unable to attend the meeting, also a memorandum prepared by Mr. Mitchell, suggesting certain amendments to the Election Act with reference to receipts and disbursements of moneys referred to as election campaign funds.

With respect to legislation which obtains in the other Dominions, the Chairman informed the Committee that he had personally looked into said legislation and had found therein no specific reference to campaign funds although attempts had been made by certain countries, to define the amount which a candidate may legitimately spend in an election. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk distribute to each member of the Committee a stencilled copy of the references to the Election Acts of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Irish Free State and Newfoundland, including memorandum by Colonel Biggar, and also a copy of memorandum submitted by Mr. Mitchell. (Copies attached herewith).

On motion of Mr. Elliott seconded by Mr. Casgrain, it was unanimously agreed that a sub-committee of three, namely Messrs. Lapointe, MacNicol and Kennedy (Peace River) be appointed to consider the following questions and report, viz:

- (a) Compulsory Voting
- (b) Continuous voters' lists
- (c) The identification of a voter by his signature or otherwise before an election, and the production at the poll of said identification.

A general discussion followed, a number of suggestions being made with reference to the limiting of expenses for publicity. The Committee then adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chair.


Clerk of the Committee.

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

No. 3. - 1932.

Minutes of Proceedings

House of Commons, Room 268.
Tuesday, March 22, 1932.

The Committee met at 11 a.m., pursuant to notice sent, the Chairman, Mr. Hanson, presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Casgrain, Duff, Elliott, Esling, Kennedy (Peace-River), Hanson, MacNicol, Mercier, Mitchell, Stinson, Sullivan, Thompson, Turnbull. - 13.

The Chairman referred to the Memorandum submitted by Mr. Mitchell at the previous meeting, and drew the attention of the Committee to the following suggestion contained therein, viz: -

"All political organizations or any organization who directly or indirectly participate in an election shall submit to the Chief Electoral Officer a sworn itemized statement of income and expenditures duly audited and certified by a qualified independent auditor."

A general discussion followed in the course of which Mr. Mitchell expressed the opinion that full publicity should be given to all campaign funds received through the central organizations of political parties.

It was suggested that Mr. Mitchell draft a concrete Resolution based on the memorandum referred to, and present same before the Committee at its next meeting.

The question of Compulsory voting and that of the identification of electors having ~~again~~ been again brought up before the Committee, the Chairman reminded the Members of the Committee that these questions had been referred to a sub-committee for report. On motion of Messrs Casgrain and Mercier it was agreed that the said sub-committee be asked to report at the next meeting.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy it was also agreed that Mr. MacNicol be Chairman of said sub-committee. (See Minutes of March 4th).

The Committee adjourned to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Clerk of the Committee.

Privileges and elections.

No. 4. - 1932.

Minutes of Proceedings

House of Commons, Room 429,
Friday, April 29th, 1932.

The Committee met at 11 a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Hanson, presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Anderson (Toronto-High Park), Beaubien, Casselman, Esling, Hanson, Kennedy (Peace River), MacDonald (Cape Breton South), McPhee, MacNicol, Mitchell, Thompson.
- 11.

The Committee again took into consideration the question of campaign funds referred to them by the House and Mr. Mitchell's memorandum as submitted to the Committee at the meeting of March 4th. Several members took part in the general discussion in the course of which Mr. MacNicol submitted the Report of the Sub-Committee appointed on March 4th to consider and report upon the questions of Compulsory voting, Continuous voters' lists, and the identification of voters. This Report is appended to the Minutes of today's proceedings.

The following Resolution was moved by Mr. Mitchell:

"That the Election Act be amended in order to provide that:

All political organizations or any other organization who directly or indirectly participate in an election shall submit to the Chief Electoral Officer a sworn itemized statement, signed by the President, Secretary and Campaign Manager, of all income and expenditures duly audited and certified by a qualified independent auditor. This shall be prepared in exactly the same manner as a candidate's election statement, within one month after the declaration of the election. Failure to carry out the terms of this provision shall make any such officer or officers liable to penalties hereby provided for.

In the first annual report succeeding an election the expenditures and income of all political organizations, or any other organization who directly or indirectly have participated in an election, shall be submitted to the House by the Chief Electoral Officer.

The expenditures and receipts in all electoral districts of the Dominion shall be submitted to the Chief electoral Officer within one month of the election and shall be reported

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immediately following an election.

The Chief Electoral Officer shall, if he so deems fit, call upon any person or persons or organizations participating in elections, for a complete return of all money received or expended, and failure to comply with such request shall make such persons or organizations subject to the penalties provided in the Act.

If at any future time after due inquiry it is found that facts regarding political campaign funds have not been submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer, such individual or organization shall be guilty of contravention of the Act and be liable for the penalties provided for.

The Chief Electoral Officer, upon receiving information of a breach of the provisions of the Act or having knowledge of any contravention, shall have power to institute such proceedings as are deemed necessary and at such places where the contraventions have occurred."

This motion having been discussed, and several members of the Committee having suggested that the matter should be considered further in conjunction with a general revision of the Election Act, the following amendment was moved by Mr. McPhee and carried unanimously, viz:

"That the Chairman report to the House that the Committee has had under consideration a report made by the subcommittee appointed to make certain enquiries into the election machinery of this country in comparison with other countries as well as the amendments proposed by Mr. Mitchell to the Election Act relative to publicity of contributions to political parties, and having in view that there will be a general revision of the Election Act at the next Session of this Parliament, that said report and proposed amendments be filed and referred to the Committee appointed at the next Session to deal with the general revision of the Act".

For the convenience of members of the Committee, the Clerk was instructed to furnish them with mimeographed copies of a draft Report embodying the above Resolution as well as copies of Mr. Mitchell's Resolution and of the Subcommittee's Report.

The Committee then adjourned to meet at the call of the Chair.

Clerk of the Committee.

APPENDIX "A"

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER

- (a) Compulsory Voting;
 - (b) Continuous Voters' List
 - (c) Identification of the Voter by his signature, or otherwise, before an Election, and the production at the Poll of said identification.
-

Your Committee considered these several matters from the viewpoints that everyone should vote in an election, and that the election should be conducted efficiently and honestly, with fair play to everyone.

In connection with Compulsory Voting, we ascertained that in Australia, Compulsory Voting is used for the Federal Australian Elections.

We also ascertained that several of the States, viz., Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria, use Compulsory Voting in their State Elections, but that South Australia, West Australia and New Zealand, use the same system as we do here.

It was found that prior to adopting Compulsory Voting Australia adopted Compulsory Registration.

In considering the question of Compulsory Voting as applied in Australia, it must not be forgotten that the country is warm and climatic conditions are generally more adaptable to Compulsory Voting.

Prior to the adoption of Compulsory Voting in Australia, the percentage of votes cast to the total vote enrolled in the three elections preceeding the adoption of Compulsory Voting, was

~~was~~ Texas follows:-

	<u>Senate Elections</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Election 1917	77.69	78.30
" 1919	71.33	71.59
" 1922	57.95	59.36

Since the adoption of Compulsory Voting, the percentages are as follows

	<u>Senate Elections</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Election 1925	91.31	91.39
" 1928	93.61	93.64
" 1929		94.85

Now, in Canada, the following figures will be of interest:-

Election of 1926 - 68% of those on the lists voted in the Elections for the House of Commons.

Election of 1930 - 76% of those on the lists voted in the Elections for the House of Commons.

If we take the Rural Seats alone, in the election of 1930, 81% of those on the lists voted; in the cities, 69.05% voted.

Now, in connection with several individual seats, percentages in the 1930 Elections were as follows:-

Ontario

Brant.....	82%
Brantford City.....	82%
Bruce North.....	89%
Elgin West.....	85%
Hulton.....	86%
Ontario.....	88%
North York.....	86%
Hamilton East.....	58%
Toronto Scarborough.....	42%

On examination of these findings, it will be found that, where two strong men were running, and the contest was vigorous and keen, the percentage was very high, but, where the return of the election was a foregone conclusion - as in Toronto-Scarborough - the percentage was small.

Quebec

Argenteuil.....	90%
Laprairie Napierville....	91%
Cartier.....	50%
<u>Nova Scotia - Inverness</u>	89%
<u>New Brunswick - Kent</u>	85%
<u>British Columbia - Kootenay East</u>	85%
<u>Manitoba - Souris</u>	85%
<u>Prince Edward Island - King's</u> ..	90%
<u>Saskatchewan - Long Lake</u>	85%
<u>Alberta - Calgary East</u>	70%

These figures indicate that, even in Canada, the percentages are very high.

In connection with the question of Compulsory Voting, the Committee decided that it was unable to recommend either for or against Compulsory Voting, but desires to study the matter further; in connection with the Continuous Voters' list,

the decision was the same, namely that it was desirable to study the matter further; in connection with Identification the same decision was arrived at.

Finally, the Committee recommended that, at the next session of Parliament, a Special Committee of Parliament be appointed to consider these questions, along with other amendments to the Election Act.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN R. MacNICOL.

Chairman Sub-Committee

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

House of Commons,
Friday, May 13, 1932.

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections met at 10.30 a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Hanson, presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Casselman, Esling, Gagnon, Kennedy (Peace River), Hanson (York-Sunbury), Lawson, MacNicol, McPhee, Mitchell, Thompson (Simcoe East).- 10.

The Committee took into consideration its report to the House on the Resolution referred to them by Order of the House made on the 11th day of February 1932, said Report reading as follows:

Friday, May 13th, 1932.

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections begs leave to present the following as its

FIRST AND FINAL REPORT.

By Order of the House made on the 11th day of February, 1932, your Committee was instructed to consider and report on the following Resolution, viz:-

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"Resolved, - Whereas during the session of 1931 a Special Committee was appointed to investigate the 'Beauharnois Power Development' and

Whereas it was shown that enormous sums of money had been contributed for political campaign funds;

Be it resolved: That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Committee on Privileges and Elections consider and report upon the question of election funds and draft such amendments to the Elections Act as may be considered necessary."

Your Committee held several meetings at which the subject matter of the Resolution was discussed and considered. Your Committee did not hear any evidence and in the interests of economy did not consider it necessary to have its proceedings printed.

During the course of its deliberations your Committee considered not only the subject matter of the Resolution referred to it, but also several other matters closely related thereto such as compulsory voting and kindred subjects. A small sub-Committee was set up to consider such related matters. The report of this sub-Committee was that it was unable to come to any concrete conclusions or to make any recommendation other than that further consideration be deferred to the next Session of Parliament when it is anticipated that a general revision of the Dominion Elections Act will be made, and your Committee concurs in this recommendation.

With respect to the matters referred to in the Order of Reference, your Committee has unanimously decided and now recommends that the report of the sub-Committee above

referred to, as well as the amendments to the Elections Act proposed by the sponsor of the Resolution in the House relative to publicity to be given to campaign contributions to political parties and organizations, a copy of which is also appended, be filed, and be referred to this Committee or such Special Committee of the House as may be set up at the next Session of Parliament to consider and, if deemed advisable, make a general revision of The Elections Act.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) R. B. HANSON

C H A I R M A N,

APPENDIX "A"

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER

- (a) Compulsory Voting
- (b) Continuous Voters' List
- (c) Identification of the Voter by his signature or otherwise, before an Election, and the production at the Poll of said identification.

Your Committee considered these several matters from the viewpoints that everyone should vote in an election, and that the election should be conducted efficiently and honestly, with fair play to everyone.

In connection with Compulsory Voting, we ascertained that in Australia, Compulsory Voting is used for the Federal Australian Elections.

We also ascertained that several of the States, viz., Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria, use Compulsory Voting in their State Elections, but ^{that} South Australia, West Australia and New Zealand use the same system as we do here.

It was found that prior to adopting Compulsory Voting Australia adopted Compulsory Registration.

In considering the question of Compulsory Voting as applied in Australia, it must not be forgotten that the country is warm and climatic conditions are generally more adaptable to compulsory voting.

Prior to the adoption of Compulsory Voting in Australia, the percentage of votes cast to the total vote enrolled in the three elections preceeding the adoption of Compulsory Voting, was as follows:-

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further; in connection with the Continuous Voters' List, the decision was the same, namely that it was desirable to study the matter further; in connection with Identification, the same decision was arrived at.

Finally, the Committee recommended that, at the next Session of Parliament, a Special Committee of Parliament be appointed to consider these questions, along with other amendments to The Elections Act.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN R. MacNICOL,
Chairman Sub-Committee.

APPENDIX "B"

Resolution moved by Mr. Mitchell, M.P.

That all political organizations or any other organization who directly or indirectly participate in an election shall submit itemized to the Chief Electoral Officer a sworn statement, signed by the President, Secretary and Campaign Manager, of all income and expenditures duly audited and certified by a qualified independent auditor. This shall be prepared in exactly the same manner as a candidate's election statement, within one month after the decla-

ration of the election. Failure to carry out the terms of this provision shall make any such officer or officers liable to penalties hereby provided for.

In the first annual report succeeding an election the expenditures and income of all political organizations, or any other organization who directly or indirectly have participated in an election shall be submitted to the House by the Chief Electoral Officer.

The expenditures and receipts in all electoral districts of the Dominion shall be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer within one month of the election and shall be reported immediately following an election.

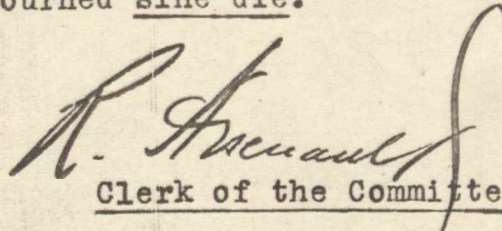
The Chief Electoral Officer shall, if he^{so} deems fit, call upon any person or persons or organizations participating in elections, for a complete return of all money received or expended and failure to comply with such request shall make such persons or organizations subject to the penalties provided for in the Act.

If at any future time after due inquiry it is found that facts regarding political campaign funds have not been submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer, such individual or organization shall be guilty of contravention of the Act and be liable to the penalties provided for.

The Chief Electoral Officer, upon receiving information of a breach of the provisions of the Act or having knowledge of any contravention, shall have power to institute such proceedings as are deemed necessary and at such places where the contraventions have occurred.

And Mr. Thompson having moved, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, 22
that said Report be adopted and presented to the House by
the Chairman, the motion carried unanimously.

The Committee than adjourned sine die.


Clerk of the Committee.

