

Supply—Justice

have the opportunity of making election some of the widows of those judges who also do not have that opportunity.

Mr. Fleming: Quite. Their position would have to be equated with that of widows of judges since that time. I think there is a very clear-cut situation there. The judges then on the bench were given an opportunity which was just as much sought after at the time by retired judges as by judges on the bench. While the privilege was extended to judges on the bench it was withheld from those who had retired.

Item agreed to.

142. Combines investigation branch, \$213,235.

Mr. Fleming: About a week ago the minister made an announcement concerning the appointment of a commission to study the Combines Investigation Act and recommend changes. Can he give any indication as to the length of time it is expected the commission will require for its study of the problem, and tell the committee if there is any likelihood that their report may be received before the next session so that any implementing legislation can be introduced at that time?

Mr. Garson: Mr. Chairman, I do not think I can give a very accurate estimate because the terms of reference are substantially as I stated them the other day. They are quite wide. We have a commission in whom we have the greatest possible confidence. We have given them *carte blanche*, and we do not know what they are going to write on that *carte blanche*. We imposed no restriction as to time, but I may say we had hoped we might possibly be able to consider their report before the next session of parliament. That is just a hope, it is not an estimate, and in no sense is it any commitment on the part of the commission.

Mr. Knowles: Can the minister state whether any investigations have been instituted by the combines investigation branch since the appointment of the new commissioner? Also, has the minister any comment to make on the report from the United States alleging monopoly or cartel in the Canadian newsprint industry?

Mr. Garson: I might answer my friend's first question by giving a little more information than he requested. First, the flat glass prosecution: The date for the commencement of the trial at Toronto has been fixed as September 25 next. The counsel for the commission are Mr. T. N. Phelan, K.C., and Mr. D. D. Carrick.

As to the bread prosecution, the argument on the preliminary application to quash the charge has been fixed for June 28. Mr. Blanchard, who is our counsel, has decided to stand upon the charge he preferred as agent of the attorney general of Alberta. The trial itself has been set for the criminal sittings next September 11 at Calgary. The counsel are Mr. C. S. Blanchard and Mr. H. W. Riley.

The match prosecutions: Counsel are still considering the exact form of charges, and directing their attention particularly to the question whether a preliminary inquiry will be necessary. We expect to have their settled opinion very shortly. The counsel are Mr. J. G. Ahern K.C., Mr. Guy Favreau, Montreal.

As to pending inquiries, no details can be given, but it may be said that there are two inquiries in advanced stages and a considerable number of preliminary inquiries, which may or may not lead to formal inquiries, that are under way in regard to other matters. In addition, the commission is receiving and dealing with the usual number of week to week complaints and inquiries, which are disposed of without leading to formal investigations. While the responsibility for the three prosecutions that have been mentioned rests with the counsel who have been appointed to conduct them, necessary consultations with such counsel and preparation of material for their use have been taking up a large proportion of the time of several members of the staff.

With regard to the second question my hon. friend mentioned, that is an export industry whose operations in the United States do not fall within the purview of our act: Without expressing an official opinion, I might say that having regard to the general shortage of newsprint in the world at large, and the very great demand for it, it would not have been surprising had the price gone higher than it has, on the basis of supply and demand alone.

Mr. Knowles: I take it from the minister's answer to the first question that the setting up of this commission that is considering possible changes in the act is not being allowed to interfere with the normal work of the branch.

Mr. Garson: I am glad my hon. friend raised that point. There is no interference with the work of this board at all. In the first place the commission is composed of men who are entirely outside the branch. They are all eminent men. Dr. Mackintosh is, in my personal opinion, the leading economist in Canada. Professor Maurice Lamontagne, is one of the leading younger economists. Mr. Justice MacQuarrie is from the Supreme Court of