

WITNESS: In matters of stills we have, I am not sure about others; but it is the general understanding that we would not start any prosecution without reporting.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. You are the head of the Mounted Police. The Mounted Police get evidence of smuggling, infractions of the law. You say you never proceed without getting specific instructions in each case?—A. That is in prosecutions?

Q. Exactly, you do not proceed with a prosecution unless you get orders in each case?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you a general order not to proceed except with instructions?—A. I am not sure, but it has been the custom.

Q. Under whose authority do you refrain from prosecuting?—A. Because we have no authority by ourselves.

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: He says he does not refrain, he does not initiate, except on the instructions he had.

WITNESS: We are only assisting, and naturally assisting the department, we take our instructions and we would make ourselves liable to exceeding our powers if we took some action for another department, of which they did not approve.

*By Hon. Mr. Bennett:*

Q. Do you drop action by orders from the Customs Department?—A. I do not remember of dropping actions.

Q. They always go through once you start?—A. As far as I remember; I do not know. I cannot remember any case—as a rule, if there is a prosecution in the Customs or Excise that has been taken up by us on their instructions some legal assistance is given to us.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Are you through, Mr. Bennett?

Hon. Mr. BENNETT: Go on, you have something in your mind; proceed with it.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. I do not understand the point he answered to you. Your officers discover what they consider infractions of the law, violations of the law; they gather the evidence, they would report right off?—A. The first thing they would report.

Q. To you?—A. To the officer commanding. We send to the Department concerned a report of whatever action is taken. There are continually coming in reports on that particular case.

Q. Supposing one of your officers discovers on some boundary point a truck load of silk coming through, which he knows is coming through in violation of the law, can he, without sending word to you yourself and then from you to the chief preventive officer, on that get authority to seize and prosecute?—A. If he is a Customs and Excise officer, as several of our men are, he would seize at once; he would take action at once. If he is not a Customs and Excise officer he has no authority to make a seizure. His instructions there are that he would have to go to the nearest Customs officer and assist that Customs officer.

Q. In the meantime the truck might be ten miles away, or fifteen miles away?—A. I do not know that it has occurred, but it is only those who have the powers of Customs and Excise officers that can make a seizure.

Q. You said a moment ago that you made perhaps thousands of reports in cases in the last two years. I take it that you have made a great many. How many cases did you prosecute under instructions from the Customs Department?—A. I could not say from memory.