

During February of this year, Colonel Vernon then Acting Commissioner of the R. C. M. P., in Nova Scotia made a statement disclosing a serious state of affairs in this part of the country. In effect he declared "little fellows were taking the rap for influential citizens who were engaged in the illegal liquor business.

That situation may be general over Canada, but it should be remembered that on this occasion it was brought to public attention by the Commanding Officer of the R.C.M.P. in this Province.

At the same time from information secured from high police officials, it was revealed that an extensive rum ring was operating in this province. Subsequent police activity, liquor seizures, and press despatches which have appeared in all Halifax newspapers since that time, have shown conclusively that the rum-ring did exist and still is in operation.

But despite the fact that the matter was called to the attention of the Atlantic Superintendent, The Canadian Press carried nothing on this situation up to the point where the Provincial Government, for purely political reasons, sought to discredit it. The Canadian Press, through its Halifax Bureau, then gave generous space to statements made in the Legislature by the Attorney-General and others who attacked this newspaper. Under political pressure Colonel Vernon qualified his statement and attempted to minimize the situation, yet when his own official yearly report was presented to the Attorney-General it substantiated practically everything that had been revealed, even using language similar to that used in the news article. The Canadian Press however, carried nothing on this angle of the Acting Commissioner's report.

Colonel Vernon it will be recalled, was retired from his duties here shortly after this incident and one of the ablest officers of the Force in Canada was sent to Nova Scotia after the matter had been discussed on the floors of the House of Commons.

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