

until the weather clears up? If the spring had been earlier, these permits would have been cancelled earlier, and the reason for extending the life of the permits is the lateness of the spring.

Mr. SHAW: I am not raising any objection to certain permits not having been cancelled, I was simply trying to get a complete picture of the situation as it stands to-day. Otherwise we are utterly and hopelessly confounded with respect to the whole question.

Mr. MITCHELL: These men are spread over the nine provinces, some of them being in very remote parts. It would be impossible for me to make a statement until the weather clears up, so that these men may go back to agriculture. Even then it will take some time to check up with the 216 offices across Canada from which permits have been issued. I shall be glad to do that at the earliest opportunity if it is at all possible.

Mr. SHAW: That is perfectly satisfactory. Some of the statements that have been made have led me to believe that the matter was to be dropped at that point.

I should like to refer to those who have been prosecuted for not having reported for military service or alternate work service. I do not know where the cut-off comes between the Department of Labour and the Department of National War Services, so that what I am about to say may not be relevant to the work of the minister. We have discussed from time to time and more particularly to-day what has been characterized as the army of lost persons, those thousands and thousands who for one reason or another have not reported. I find upon checking available statistics that this condition is more prevalent in certain administrative divisions than in others, and I checked back to ascertain the reasons. During the course of my investigations I examined the records with respect to those who have been apprehended and prosecuted for failure to report for military service or alternate work service, and I am utterly appalled when I consider what has taken place in the various divisions with respect to these prosecutions. The absolute leniency shown in some divisions—for example, a one dollar fine—leads me to the conclusion that it is no wonder the individual does not care what may happen to him if he fails to report.

Then I go to another division and find that an individual—and it is quite common in this division—is given a gaol sentence of twelve months and a fine of \$200. I will take two more divisions without referring to them by letter or number. In one of these divisions

there were twenty-one prosecutions; nine persons were given a gaol sentence as well as being fined; ten were sent to gaol without the option of a fine, one was given the option of a fine or a gaol sentence, and one was sentenced to report for training. The average gaol sentence in that division was five and one-quarter months, and the average fine imposed was \$110.

In another division there were fourteen prosecutions, but only three gaol sentences. In only one case was the accused both gaoled and fined. There were two gaol sentences and nine cases where there was a choice of a fine or gaol. The average gaol sentence in that division was 2.11 months. The average fine was slightly over \$41.

What I am trying to get at is this. I realize that there must be a minimum and a maximum fine, and no doubt there are regulations covering that. But why throughout one whole division is such leniency shown? For example, out of forty prosecutions in one division, only two persons were given a gaol sentence and fined, while in another division they were given a gaol sentence of from six months to a year and a fine of \$100 to \$200 was imposed, with no option; they were both gaoled and fined.

I think it is high time that the minister or whoever is responsible should take into consideration a record such as is presented here, which I understand is up to date as of September last, and see if some equality of sentence cannot be meted out because, if an individual in a certain division knows he is to be fined only \$5 or sent to gaol for ten days, he will not worry a great deal. But the fellow who knows he will be gaoled for twelve months and fined \$200 is in a very different position. We talk of equality of sacrifice, but I say that there is absolutely no equality of penalty in dealing with these various cases. I shall not elaborate, but I believe this matter should be given immediate consideration.

Just one other suggestion. I have often wondered why the government did not pass a regulation providing that, where an individual fails to report for military service or alternate work service, he be turned over to the military police and treated as though he had been A.W.O.L. I think that is the cure for this situation, and it would avoid all the difficulties that arise as the result of a prosecution. I hope the minister will give this suggestion his consideration.

Item agreed to.

Removal of enemy aliens including Japanese nationals and other persons of the Japanese race from protected areas in British Columbia, \$3,000,000.