

would vote a sum for the purposes of the commission equal to the estimated revenue for the year. If we provide that sum and the revenue falls short of the estimate, will there not be a deficit?

Mr. BENNETT: The money will not be expended. I am not perhaps less mindful than the hon. member for Weyburn of the necessity of meeting that situation. I hope he will not misunderstand me when I say that I do not think he will find on the statute books any provision as drastic as this to prevent that situation arising.

Mr. MacLEAN: Are there any stated licence fees, or will the commission have power to impose any fees they wish?

Mr. BENNETT: If the hon. gentleman will look at section 9 he will observe what the powers of the commission are with respect to broadcasting, and section 8 provides for the general determination of questions of that character. The minister's power under the Radiotelegraph Act still continues, as will be observed; but the commission has power to make recommendations to the minister in connection with all these matters, and I would take it the power conferred by the Radiotelegraph Act as to the governor in council fixing the licence fees still continues.

Section 14 stands.

Sections 15 to 19 inclusive agreed to.

On section 20—Oath of office.

Mr. POWER: This section seems to be somewhat peculiar. It is not found in any other statutes.

Mr. BENNETT: That is right.

Mr. POWER: I do not want to criticize it, but would the Prime Minister tell us what he has in mind?

Mr. BENNETT: Section 20 contains the form of oath which the commissioners will take. It must be within the experience of some members of this house that the ordinary form of oath, "I will discharge my duties according to law," has left some persons who have taken that oath in doubt as to just what their obligations were. To remove any doubt of that kind it was thought desirable in this instance that the obligations of the oath should be indicated clearly, that is:

I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully, truly and impartially, to the best of my judgment, skill and ability, execute and perform the office of chief commissioner (or as the case may be) of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission, and that, while I continue

to hold such office, I will not accept or hold any other office or employment or be interested, either directly or indirectly, in my personal capacity or as a shareholder in any company or partner in any firm or otherwise, in any commercial dealing in relation to radio broadcasting or in the manufacture or distribution of sending or receiving sets or other radio equipment.

I think most members will agree it is desirable that whoever accepts these positions with the provisions of the statute as they are, should have those provisions brought directly to his attention as he executes the oath of office.

Section agreed to.

On section 21—Offences and penalties.

Mr. BENNETT: This section contains two blanks. I would ask the house to look at the section:

Every person who commits a breach of any provision of this act or of any regulation made thereunder shall be guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding ..... dollars or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding ..... or by both fine and imprisonment.

I am wholly in the hands of the committee with respect to the matter. I should say not exceeding a reasonable fine, because matters of very considerable importance are involved. Would "not exceeding one hundred dollars" be sufficient? My friend the Minister of Justice says that under some of our statutes it is somewhat higher, not exceeding two hundred dollars. This is the maximum discretion which might be exercised.

Mr. BROWN: It does not occur to me what offences might be committed against this act.

Mr. BENNETT: If the hon. member for Lisgar will look at section 8 and at section 9 he will realize the possibilities of offences in connection with over-running of time, blocking of channels, unauthorized programs, or interference with the work of the commission itself in connection with local or provincial undertakings. For instance, during the war the hon. gentleman will recall a station was found in South America that nobody knew anything about. Then there is the offence of operating stations without authority, and matters of that kind.

Mr. POWER: Say two hundred dollars.

Mr. BENNETT: Not exceeding two hundred dollars?

Mr. BRADETTE: What is the exact meaning of "summary conviction"?