

newspaper and magazine concerns. They feel they are losing a substantial amount of revenue because the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is permitting United States broadcasts over the Canadian system. I do not think this should be taken into consideration. The corporation was set up for the betterment of radio reception and to provide entertainment for the Canadian people, and I do not see where the publishers enter the picture at all. I am in favour of the licence fee being left at \$2.

Mr. BETTS: What proportion of the collectors are returned men?

Mr. HOWE: We have no record at the moment, but I shall be glad to get it. I may say that we try to get returned men in every riding.

Mr. BETTS: When the minister states that these positions are held by returned men all over Canada, I believe he is stating something with which he is not familiar. I can tell him that in many places in western Ontario returned men are not doing the collecting, and they would be very glad to have this work. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Tustin) informs me that in his riding the appointment was given not to a returned man but to a prominent Liberal ward heeler. I submit that in many cases these appointments are made for political reasons and no consideration at all is given to the returned men. The returned man is eminently suited for this work and he should have it. If the minister is willing to cooperate with the Minister of Pensions and National Health, I see no reason why all collecting should not be done by returned men.

Mr. LOCKHART: I quite agree with what has been said by the last speaker. A returned man in my constituency was discharged, but I do not desire to refer to that at the moment. I saw it stated in some magazine that there were from two and a half to two and three-quarter million radios in operation in Canada. I do not know whether the minister has knowledge of the approximate number that might be in operation, but I suggest to him that in some rural municipalities nearly seventy-five per cent of the people owning radios are not taking out licences. The number of radios in operation given by the minister is considerably lower than the estimate of the dealers.

Mr. HOWE: If the hon. member is interested in a particular constituency, I shall be glad to give him the figures. We have found the dealers' figures to be not altogether reliable. For instance, the publication *Radio Trade*

[Mr. C. E. Johnston.]

Builder estimates that in 1937 there were 1,670,000 sets in Canada. I assume that estimate is based upon the number of sets manufactured and sold; but what formula was used to allow for discarded sets, I do not know. The only authentic figures available were those obtained in the census of 1931 which showed 770,436 sets in operation. In that year the Radio Trade Builder made an estimate of 967,800 sets, approximately 200,000 more than the estimate of the census enumerators. For the next fiscal year, 1932-33, the departmental figures showed 761,288 licences issued.

Hon. members and others make the statement that in certain localities fifty per cent of the radio owners are not buying licences, but the figures do not always check up. We believe we are getting about ninety per cent for all of Canada, the percentage being greater in the cities and smaller in the country districts. When hon. members come in and make such statements, I ask them what localities they are interested in. We look up the population of the particular locality and divide it by five to get the approximate number of houses. Then I ask my interviewer what he believes to be the number of licences issued based upon the number of houses in the locality and invariably I find that his guess is much below the actual number of licences issued. We know that in the country districts we do not get as high a proportion as in the cities, but the reason is obvious. With a maximum cost of twenty-five cents per licence, it is impossible to call on every house in the country and collect a fee at that house. If we spent a larger proportion of the fee for collecting, we could collect more, but we believe that the commission under no circumstances should go above twenty-five cents per licence.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): Did the minister say that it was positively settled that the fee is to be increased by fifty cents? What about people who have several sets? The minister said that he had several sets in his own house. Does it mean that people have to pay \$2.50 for each set they have, or pay fifty cents more for additional sets?

Mr. HOWE: The licence fee is \$2.50 for each set.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): So if one has three sets, he would have to pay \$7.50?

Mr. HOWE: Yes.

Mr. HEAPS: Does that apply also to a radio in a motor car?

Mr. HOWE: Yes.