

Mr. HANSON: Do the inspectors stationed in Vancouver to look after British Columbia have to make special trips? I think the inspector comes to my constituency once a year, sometimes perhaps twice a year. Several complaints have been received, and resolutions have been adopted by boards of trade, and so on, asking that an inspector should visit the district four times a year. As in the case of the hon. member who preceded me, probably the territory is too big; it needs another inspector. In an outlying district inspection once a year is not sufficient. There is no checking up; probably no one but the inspector could check it, and as he comes only once a year radio reception is bound to be poor. If an inspector came four times a year throughout northern British Columbia, I think the people would be satisfied. I would ask the minister to look into the matter and advise me whether there is any set time that the inspector should be there.

Mr. HOWE: Whenever we can extract \$6,000 more from the exchequer, we intend to put another inspector in British Columbia. We admit at once that our four men there cannot cover the territory as frequently as they should. When we get additional funds, that is where we intend to spend it first.

Mr. GRAYDON: Does this particular vote cover the work done by the inspectors in regard to blanketing by the new Canadian Broadcasting Corporation station at Hornby, Ontario, which has had considerable effect on reception sets in the county of Peel?

Mr. HOWE: The situation in the county of Peel is being taken care of by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. It is a special situation that they have created. They have installed some five hundred wave traps which, I think, are making some improvement.

Mr. LAWSON: Rather than deal with this question from the point of view of some particular municipality, I should like to deal with it more in its national aspect. I observe on page 214 of the estimates the details of this item. Apparently for all Canada we have four radio electricians, twenty-three junior radio electricians; then I see we have eleven radio inspectors and three junior radio inspectors. Assuming that one who owns a radio receiving set makes complaint to the department's branch in his municipality as to interference or static or noise on his set, which one of these gentlemen whose classifications I have named responds to such a call and deals with the matter of obliterating that interference?

[Mr. Tustin.]

Mr. HOWE: It might be any one of them. They are highly trained men in that narrow groove. The junior radio electrician is a civil service classification that has to do with the man's salary rather than his ability to trace these noises. It is a fairly narrow specialty, and I think any one of those men would be fully competent to deal with such a matter.

Mr. LAWSON: Then I observe that there are twenty-three junior radio electricians, four radio electricians, eleven radio inspectors and three junior radio inspectors, making altogether forty-one. May I assume that there are forty-one men in the whole Dominion of Canada engaged in the business of trying to obliterate interference on private radio receiving sets?

Mr. HOWE: That is correct, yes.

Mr. LAWSON: Then I would suggest that that is by no means an adequate staff to deal with the trouble. Let me give one instance which is illustrative of many. We have in the city of Toronto a fairly good residential district known as Moore Park. A gentleman who resides in that district had a collector of radio licence fees come around to his house about three months ago wanting to collect a radio licence fee. The resident refused to pay on the ground that he had not used his set in six months and could not use it because of interference. The collector, being a rational man, said that seemed a reasonable ground why this gentleman should not pay, and he said, "I will report this at once to the department in Toronto; some one will come here and correct that for you in a few days, and afterwards I shall be back to collect the licence fee." Nothing having happened for two months and seven days, to be exact, the resident in question called up the department in Toronto to know what was being done about his complaint, or whether the complaint had been received. After they had kept him waiting on the telephone for five minutes while they looked it up, a gentleman came back on the telephone and said that the collector of licence fees had been very faithful; that he had put in the complaint; but, he said, "My dear man, we still have 3,546 complaints ahead of yours to look into."

Seriously I do not think such a situation should be allowed to prevail, particularly in view of the fact that although we may be going to increase the price of the radio licence, not one cent of that increase is going to be used to improve reception on people's receiving sets, but is going to a corporation