

tionably liquor is ostensibly exported from Vancouver to be brought in again and bootlegged without paying the revenue. I suggest that it would be profitable to the government to extend this service.

Mr. RYCKMAN: I shall be delighted to have any information given to the department which will enable the successful assertion of our rights to collect all the revenue and to prevent any person or persons from treating with contempt the revenue of Canada. Recently we were able to overtake some of these improper efforts by means of information furnished the department, some anonymous and others by those who were quite willing to sign their names. If any hon. member of this house or anyone in the country knows that the government is being defrauded, we shall be glad to be advised as to the circumstances. If we should be zealous about anything it is in obtaining that to which we are entitled and in preventing anyone from flouting the laws of this country.

Mr. RALSTON: A man by the name of MacDonald was dismissed from the preventive service in Pictou county. I understand that representations have been made to the minister by the Nova Scotia Temperance Alliance officials to the effect that the services of this man were in every way satisfactory. What report has the minister received about this case, and what information can he furnish the committee?

Mr. RYCKMAN: Does the hon. member refer to Mr. Norman MacDonald?

Mr. RALSTON: I do not know the first name.

Mr. RYCKMAN: A customs-excise enforcement officer. On April 15, 1931, his services were dispensed with because of active political partisanship during the last federal elections. I obtained my information in connection with this case from a source which I regard to be most reliable. This man was an excellent officer, one of the best we had in the preventive service, but under section 55 of the Civil Service Act a statement was made by an hon. member of this house upon his authority as a member that this man had been guilty of the offence of political partisanship. Hon. members who know what control is exercised over the civil service by that section must realize that I had nothing else to do than to accept the statement of the hon. member and recommend to council that this man be dismissed.

Mr. RALSTON: Does the minister say that he had a certificate from a member of parliament?

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Mr. RYCKMAN: Naturally I required to have the statement put in writing, and I have the letter in the text of the statute which my hon. friend, of course, knows very well.

Mr. RALSTON: I do not think there is any text in the statute in regard to letters from members of parliament, but it is well recognized that the minister acts on letters of members of parliament when the statement is that the partisanship is to the member's personal knowledge. Has the minister the letter with him?

Mr. RYCKMAN: No.

Mr. RALSTON: Will the minister bring it down?

Mr. RYCKMAN: I have no doubt it is on the file. I shall be glad to bring it down.

Mr. RALSTON: Does the minister expect to finish his estimates to-night?

Mr. RYCKMAN: I am in the hands of the committee.

Mr. RALSTON: I understood something was said by the Prime Minister about two or three items being taken up, and then something else.

Mr. RYCKMAN: As I say, I am in the hands of the committee.

Mr. RALSTON: It was just a matter of knowing whether the minister's estimates would be before the committee again, of considering the papers and finding out whether there is anything to bring before the committee.

Mr. RYCKMAN: In any case I shall be glad to bring down the letter. I am pretty sure I have it.

Mr. RALSTON: Will the minister give me an opportunity on another item of discussing this matter after the letter and the other documents are brought down?

Mr. RYCKMAN: I shall be glad to do so.

Mr. RALSTON: I might also ask the minister to bring down the order in council.

Mr. RYCKMAN: In view of what has been said by the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth, this item, which is the last one, had better stand.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There will be supplementaries.

Mr. RYCKMAN: I have two items in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That will be all right.

Item agreed to.