

the crown makes on almost every statute that is passed, giving these regulations also the force of statutes.

The next point I want to make is this. The enforcement of all federal law from confederation to the present, has been a matter for the provinces, and the provinces simply turn it over to the municipalities. They have a municipal police system of their own. Up until recent times Ontario had only a skeleton police force, something like the skeleton in the health department. They have taken the skeleton out of the closet now, and once the skeleton gets out nobody knows what will happen.

So far as this revision is concerned I am hoping that someone like Hon. Mr. Justice Mackay, who has had a great deal to do with the law of libel and slander, criminal and constitutional cases, will be included as one of the commission. I see no reason why some estimate of the cost should not be given, because this will be a very expensive commission. It reminds me of what I proposed a short time ago, Mr. Chairman. We should have a legal committee in this house. They have had one in nearly all the provinces since confederation. These legal bills could be considered by that legal committee. I commend that suggestion to the present minister.

I do not know that I can say anything further, because I do not want to hold up the minister's resolution and bill. I hope that this commission will not be too large, that the members will be selected from some of the judges, and that the recommendations of the chief constables' association will be given consideration. I hope that the provincial police systems, which are largely municipal, will receive bonuses, subventions and subsidies from this parliament to enforce federal law, because we do not enforce federal law ourselves.

When I was chairman of the police commission in Toronto I found that the number of federal acts that had to be enforced, together with the orders in council issued by the government during the first war, entailed a large sum of money. With the late Mr. Bradshaw, our city treasurer, assisting me, I wrote to many states; he wrote to Australia and to New Zealand. We found that in Australia the city of Sydney received over \$2,000,000 in bonuses, subventions and subsidies for doing this work of enforcing federal law. A very large part of our police work is devoted to traffic and to the enforcement of these orders in council. The mounted police serve the Northwest Territories. We all owe a great deal to the work which the mounted police did during the two wars and between

[Mr. Church.]

the wars in coming to the aid of the civil police systems. If the federal government is not going to enforce its own federal law, there should be some recognition, by federal contribution, of the work done by the police throughout the whole of Canada during the second great war and since, in enforcing all federal law and hundreds and thousands of orders in council.

I am sorry to see the minister go. I compliment him on having the courage and the wisdom to bring in this resolution so that the matter may be cleaned up. When that is done, and a complete revision of federal law adopted, we shall have a better state of affairs in the enforcement of law and order in this country.

Mr. FLEMING: There is general agreement in the house that the time is ripe, if not overdue, for a revision of the statutes of Canada. In the past there have been just three revisions. The last one, which was made in 1927, is already twenty-one years old. No doubt by the time the revision now proposed is completed the 1927 revision will be twenty-five years old. The previous revisions of 1886 and 1906 did not present anything like the amount of work that was presented to the commissioners in 1927, and, of course, not nearly the amount of work that will confront the commissioners in this new work of revision.

Certain questions naturally suggest themselves on a reading of the resolution, and I would ask the Minister of Justice when he speaks to deal with such points as these. First of all, will the minister indicate the size of the proposed commission, the terms of appointment and the qualifications he has in mind for the personnel? In 1927 revision was carried out very largely by judges. Does the minister intend that the commission this time shall be composed in the main of judges?

Important questions arise also with reference to the scope of revision. It will be one thing if the task of the commissioners is simply to be the work of consolidation—a simpler task and one which could be accomplished much more quickly. But if a serious attempt is to be made to revise the statutes, then the undertaking is bound to be much greater.

When I spoke a moment ago about the revision being in the hands of judges I spoke rather of the provision for an earlier revision. The 1927 revision was in the hands of the following as commissioners: Sir Charles Fitzpatrick as president; Mr. Newcombe, who was deputy minister of justice at the time the commission was set up—on his appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada he was