

*Supply—Marine—Radio*

four thousand small post offices are paid 15 cents per licence, the same as the banks. We do not allow all banks to issue licences; I am informed by the officials that this is done only when the bank is some distance away from the post office. I should like to know the place which my hon. friend has in mind.

Mr. VENIOT: It is Bathurst. The bank is situated within fifty yards of the post office and contains a notice "Radio licences sold here."

Mr. DURANLEAU: I will take note of that and we will see that some redress is made. From July 1 last the licences issued by our inspectors numbered 84,870 or 11 per cent. The Department of Marine received the fees direct for 15,083 licences or 2 per cent. The mounted police collected for 6,896 licences.

Mr. NEILL: What rake-off do they get?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I am told that so far the mounted police have received no commission.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): They should all be collected by the mounted police.

Mr. DURANLEAU: I am told that the same commission paid to the inspectors, 40 cents per licence, is paid into their retirement fund.

Mr. TOTZKE: Are they not paid by the state?

Mr. DURANLEAU: They have to go from house to house, sometimes travelling miles in their own cars, in order to issue licences.

Mr. TOTZKE: Are they not paid by the state the same as the postmasters? Why should they get a bigger percentage?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Because they have to go from house to house like the inspectors. This commission does not go to them personally, it goes to their retirement fund.

Mr. GRAY: Are they not being paid by the government while they are going from house to house? Why should the mounted police receive anything extra when they are being paid by the government?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I suppose the matter was weighed and it was thought advisable that it should be done.

Mr. GRAY: Who authorized this payment, the minister or the commission?

Mr. DURANLEAU: The payment would be authorized by order in council.

[Mr. Duranleau.]

Mr. NEILL: I am like the member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), I am disappointed. I do not think the minister was quite fair in the argument he put forth. I wanted to know what arrangements had been made for paying men in the future, and I instanced cases where political appointments had been made. The minister came back by entirely begging the question. He said that 69 per cent of the licences were issued by dealers, but does he think we are so simple that we do not know that for the most part radio licences are taken out in the spring? These political appointments were made as late as October and possibly November, and the minister tries to draw a red herring across the trail by saying that the dealers had issued 69 per cent of the licences. That may be true for the past year but apparently it is the intention of the government to concentrate the issuance of licences in the future in the hands of these politicians. If I were a politician I certainly would insist upon getting the whole of the business, and not having it whacked up between the post office, the banks and the mounted police. The minister said that the inspector goes around from door to door and gets a 20 per cent rake-off, but unless my information is out of kilter—I got it from the press—I understand that there is another man underneath the inspector. I have read in the local press that Mr. So and So has been appointed supervisor, I think that was the word used,—I will call it inspector, if that will make the minister any happier—or special issuer of licences for the district of Comox-Alberni. The gentleman to whom I refer lives in the town of Courtenay. In the same paper or the succeeding issue I read that Mr. Somebody Else, also a resident in the town of Courtenay, had been appointed an issuer of licences. The first man was a superman; he attended only to the inspectorship and got a rake-off of 10 or 20 per cent. But this other man does the spade work; he issues the licences and he was appointed for the town of Courtenay. If that is not correct, I should like to be informed. Are there not two men engaged, one for the whole electoral district as supervisor and one vendor resident in each place? One of the latter will, I am sure, as the minister foreshadowed, be filled by his friend Mr. McDonald of Bamfield.

Mr. DURANLEAU: The hon. member for Comox-Alberni is quite right when he says that there is a supervisor. The department did not want to deal with more than one man in each district. That man would be responsible for the work and would have somebody else to help him out, to go from house to house, do the work and report.