

*Radiotelegraph Act*

The Radio Supply Co., Ltd., Edmonton.  
P. W. Shackleton, Olds.  
Province of British Columbia—  
Western Canada Radio Supply Co. Ltd., Victoria.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I think my hon. friend is wrong when he says there is no change from the present act. It is true that under order in council the amount of the fee is fixed, but that must be a flat level; no differentiation can be made. In the present case a portion of the fee is to be paid to the broadcasting station. What I want to know is whether that amount will be at the minister's discretion or whether there is to be a regular rule regarding the matter?

Mr. LAPOINTE: There will be a regular rule. I am of opinion myself that the same proportion of the fee should go for the same services rendered anywhere in Canada.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Does the minister think that he should help reduce the cost of advertisers by refunds of this kind? I notice from the list he has read that a great many of the people operating these stations are using them really only to advertise their business. Does he propose to help them to carry the cost of that advertising?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I am sure their intention is to advertise their business. Still, they are giving concerts, lectures and so on, and thus contributing to the enjoyment of the receivers. There may be something in my hon. friend's suggestion, but my present impression is that it would be hard to differentiate.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Take the case of broadcasting, which is entirely for the purpose of selling radio instruments and parts. Does the minister intend, in effect, to help to carry the cost of selling this equipment by contributing a part of the license fee?

Mr. LAPOINTE: These matters will all have to be considered; all we ask is the power of regulation. There may be a difference between a purely philanthropic company organized only for the purpose of giving enjoyment to the thousands of listeners, and a company which broadcasts chiefly for its own benefit.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Complaints come from the receivers with regard to the tremendous misuse of broadcasting, resulting in conflict of currents, and the like. Has the minister considered that question at all?

Mr. LAPOINTE. Yes. The reason for the collection of the fee is to pay for the services of inspectors to prevent that very thing.

[Mr. Lapointe.]

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What are the regulations in that respect? I have not noticed anything in the statute that would cover it. How does the minister now police broadcasting?

Mr. LAPOINTE: We have inspectors all over Canada, seven on the permanent staff and twenty-eight on part time.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What are the regulations which govern broadcasting?

Mr. LAPOINTE: I have not the regulations here; if my hon. friend desires to have them I can furnish them. I do not see, however, that it is necessary to have them for the purposes of this legislation.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If the general interest is considered, it is that of the receivers rather than that of the transmitters. I have no personal knowledge of the matter, but I am told that the receiver does not interfere with the currents, so that the receiver is not to blame for all these difficulties. It is the sender, the broadcaster who is responsible for that. Am I not right?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The trouble my hon. friend refers to arises in connection with the operations of transmitting stations of which there are 1,900 throughout Canada. It is the duty of the inspectors, among other things, to see that these stations do not get off what they call the wave-length and thus interfere with broadcasting. The transmitting stations are different from the broadcasting stations.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: But there is conflict even on the part of the main broadcasting station themselves. Upon whom are the fees placed, upon the broadcaster and the transmitter, or upon those who listen?

Mr. LAPOINTE: The fee payable by the receivers is only one dollar per year. The broadcasting stations have to pay \$50 per year. In Great Britain the license fee for the receiving stations is \$2.50; and they are proceeding on the same basis as that on which we want to proceed. Of that fee of \$2.50, one-half goes to the department and one-half to the broadcasting company. This system has been in operation only since December last. There are over 100,000 licenses for receiving stations in England.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I hope the result will not be the multiplication of broadcasting, because the chief trouble to-day is that there is so much conflict in the waves. Is the service self-supporting?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Not yet.