

Hagersville, Ontario, in the amount of \$134,496, and Dufferin Paving Company Limited had a contract for paving roads, et cetera, at Swift Current for \$34,530. During his internment contracts were entered into with Dufferin Shipbuilding Company Limited, controlled in whole or in part by him, to the extent of several million dollars as follows: October 23, 1940, mine-sweeping vessels, \$1,316,852; April 9, 1941, supply of four mine-sweeping vessels, \$2,699,568; June 2, 1941, mine-sweepers, \$2,530,817. Finally, when he was released the government cancelled outstanding contracts by agreement and purchased the outstanding shares of the capital stock of Dufferin Shipbuilding Company for \$975,000. Why an enemy of the country, if he was an enemy, while he remained interned should have been able to carry on his business affairs under the custodian of alien enemy property and then on his discharge receive the profits requires an explanation. The minister may come before the house and the country and explain that a mistake was made and that this man was innocent. I am of opinion that it will be very difficult for the government otherwise to explain the matter satisfactorily. It may be noted that the only ground for his release given at the time of his discharge was his serious illness.

In conclusion, let me say that I had the honour to belong to the defence of Canada regulations committee during the first session. As has been stated by the hon. member for Parry Sound whose distinguished career as a lawyer added lustre to the committee, and also by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), if ever there was a committee of this parliament that was a model for others it is this one. Members of the committee worked together without any considerations of party or party benefit, with one end and one end only, namely, the assistance of this country at this time. While mistakes no doubt have been made; while improvements in the regulations have had to be incorporated from time to time in the original regulations, the record to date has been one that justifies the existence and continuance of this committee.

I join with the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green) in asking that the committee be given an opportunity as well to look into the matter of naturalization and deportation. If I understood rightly, at the present time aliens who are British subjects and are interned for wrongdoing, cannot be deported at the conclusion of hostilities, and recommendations should be made with regard thereto at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. J. W. NOSEWORTHY (York South): More than two months ago a deputation from the civil liberties' association met the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), the Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent), and other ministers of the crown and made certain recommendations with regard to the enforcement of the defence of Canada regulations. We have asked repeatedly for a report from the minister regarding the consideration which these representations have received and the extent to which they have been followed. That report was promised to us over the Prime Minister's signature before the Easter recess.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: And has been ready for the last six weeks for presentation at any time the hon. member chose to ask for it.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Then we may expect from the minister a report when he is speaking to this motion.

In the second place, I would call the attention of the minister and members of the committee to three widespread suspicions which I have found all across Ontario with regard to the defence of Canada regulations. There is a widespread suspicion that communists are being interned because they are communists. It is in the interests of our war effort that every possible measure be taken to remove that suspicion from the public mind. If I were a communist; if I were more interested in the spread of communism than in our war effort, I would desire nothing more than to see communist leaders interned, whereby they become public heroes and their cause becomes popular with their people and with others.

The second suspicion that I have found, notwithstanding statements made here this afternoon, is that men have been interned because of their work in labour organizations. We have already had the assurance of members of the committee that no person has been interned on these grounds.

Mr. MITCHELL: When the hon. member speaks of labour organizations, to what does he refer?

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I am referring to activity in labour organizations.

Mr. MITCHELL: That is a pretty broad term.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Or union activity, if you wish to narrow the term. That suspicion should be removed. It is a remarkable coincidence that so many of those persons who have been interned have been at the same time very active in trade unionism, and I am quite sure that that widespread suspicion is a deterrent to our war effort to-day.