

able service. As I say, in a great many cases \$3 is a very substantial item, and to many poor people living in the country whose only communication with the outer world is the radio a \$3 fee will mean that the radio will have to be done without. I hope the minister will reassure me and say that the government or the commission, whichever is dominant, has no intention for this year at least of increasing the license fee beyond \$2.

Mr. DURANLEAU: The collection of radio licence fees was made last year just as it had been made previously except that on July 1, three months after the beginning of the fiscal year, we appointed inspectors to go from house to house and ascertain those who had radio licences and those who had not. These inspectors were authorized to issue licences to those who did not possess them, and they were paid a certain commission.

Mr. NEILL: How much?

Mr. DURANLEAU: Forty cents per licence; we did not pay a cent more than that. I am glad my hon. friend has brought up the matter so that I may give this information to the committee and to the house. As a matter of fact the net revenue collected by the department and turned over to the Receiver General on account of licences issued during the ten months ending January 31, 1933, amounted to \$1,396,447.57. After estimating the number of unissued licences remaining in the hands of dealers these figures represent approximately 735,000 licences actually issued to January 31, 1933. The distribution and sale of licences for that ten months period was as follows: 69.9 per cent or 513,776 licences were sold by dealers, at a cost of 7½ per cent.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): What percentage is paid the dealer?

Mr. DURANLEAU: He is paid 15 cents per licence, which is at the rate of 7½ per cent, and of the 735,000 licences issued, 513,776 were sold by dealers at that commission.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): How much does that amount to?

Mr. DURANLEAU: 69.9 per cent of the total for the ten months. The licences issued by the post offices numbered 130,535, or 17 per cent, and the commission paid was 2½ per cent or 5 cents per licence.

Mr. COOTE: Why the difference in the commission paid to the post offices and to other people?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): What was the total commission paid out under these three schemes?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I am just giving the figures. To answer my hon. friend in the far corner I would state that the commission paid to the post offices is less because these officials are already paid by the government. It is very convenient to the taxpayers to be able to obtain their licences at the post offices, and this service costs the department only 5 cents per licence.

Mr. VENIOT: How many radio licences were sold by the banks?

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): In our district the mounted police issue the licences.

Mr. CASGRAIN: The sexton does it in some places.

Mr. DURANLEAU: The number of licences issued by the banks was 18,391 at a commission of 15 cents.

Mr. VENIOT: Would a bank in a town be authorized to issue licences at a 15 cent commission when it is situated within a hundred yards of a post office?

Mr. CASGRAIN: Why pay more to a bank than to a post office?

Mr. DURANLEAU: We do this in order to provide every convenience for the taxpayer in buying his licence. When a citizen goes to a bank he is able to buy his licence.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Why pay more to a bank than to a post office?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I have already given the reason; because the postmaster is already paid by the state.

Mr. CASGRAIN: The banks make more money than the post offices.

Mr. VENIOT: Why should a bank be authorized to issue licences at a 15 cent commission when it is situated within only fifty yards of a post office which receives only 5 cents? The minister says that the postmaster is already paid by the government, but the government would be saving money by taking this privilege away from the banks. God knows, they have enough privileges now.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): How much was paid out in commissions to these various collecting agencies?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I was giving the figures.

Mr. SPENCE: Give him a chance to answer.

Mr. DURANLEAU: In answer to the question asked by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) I would say that