

Q. What is the next one, Mr. Starnes?—A. In connection with the appointment officers at Customs.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. What is that?—A. The appointment of our men as Custom and Excise officers at Montreal.

Q. You have a file on that?—A. Yes.

*By Hon. Mr. Bennett:*

Q. That was to enable your men to act as preventive Customs officers all over the country?—A. In different places; they are appointed by name.

Q. Yes, I know; I am familiar with that. What is the next one?—A. Regarding the Maxe gang, Montreal.

*By Mr. Bell:*

Q. Was that a prosecution, Mr. Commissioner?—A. No, that was a report.

*By Hon. Mr. Bennett:*

Q. What is the next one?—A. V. M. Noel, Montreal.

Q. Smuggling?—A. It was reported as smuggling.

Q. Yes, I mean charged with smuggling?—A. Yes.

Q. And the next?—A. There is a different volume on that.

Q. On the same matter?—A. Yes.

Q. That is all you have brought with you?—A. That is all I have brought, yes.

Q. Now, Mr. Commissioner, I want to make myself very clear to you. Can you not very readily look up your files and produce for this Committee the instructions received by you from the Customs Department, asking for investigations, or whatever it may be?—A. Each separate file would have its own instructions.

Q. It is initiated or originated with a request from the Customs Department?—A. Not always.

Q. Sometimes verbally?—A. Sometimes verbally; as on the prairies, where there are a lot of illicit stills, our men on patrol will hear of an illicit still, and they will perhaps make a seizure, and then the matter is reported to the Customs, the stuff is analyzed, and instructions are then given by the Customs as to whether prosecution will take place or not.

Q. Now, Mr. Commissioner, you received written instructions asking your Department to take action, thereupon, your practice would be to instruct your officers to make investigation?—A. Or prosecution.

Q. Or prosecution?—A. Yes.

Q. And they report back to you?—A. Yes.

Q. And you report to the Department of Customs or Justice—which?—A. Customs.

Q. You report direct to the Customs Department?—A. Direct to the Customs.

Q. You keep copies of your reports?—A. Yes.

Q. I would like a copy of all the reports you have made to the Customs Department with respect to alleged infractions of the law during the years 1926, 1925 and 1924?—A. You wish me to have a list made—because it will be very considerable.

Q. I judged that?—A. It may be up in the thousands.

Q. Not as bad as that?—A. Yes, taking it all through.