

are much greater distances and spaces and a lot of foreigners, and where there is no revenue officer to attend to it, whenever our men hear rumours of a still somewhere, they look for information and go and make a raid or a seizure. Probably some men on the detachment hold commissions as Customs or Excise officers, a seizure is made, a report is sent down, an analysis of the mash is made, the reports are sent to the Customs and Excise Department, and in due form we get orders to proceed with the prosecution.

Q. Do I understand you to say that after you seize a still which you know is operated against the law, you still are not able to institute a proceeding until after your report has been received?—A. Yes, because we are working for another department.

Q. Is it or is it not a fact that some time ago your department—when I say your department I mean you yourself—had power to institute prosecutions without referring to any department at all?—A. Not since I have handled things.

Q. That was in 1923; is that correct?—A. I think so.

Q. Is it correct to say that the present situation is as I have describe?

Mr. GEOFFRION: The question is ambiguous. Do you mean that he received instructions in 1923?

Mr. BELL: No, I do not mean that.

*By Mr. Bell:*

Q. Since 1923, when you came on, there has been no change?—A. No.

Q. Are you in a position to know whether or not the system was changed not very long before you came on?—A. I could not say from memory.

Q. Have you any information at all that would lead you to know the truth about that?—A. I would have to look up some files.

Q. Is there, to your knowledge, a file which contains a record setting out the change?—A. I am not in a position to say; I would have to look it up.

Q. Can you not tell me that?—A. If there is anything, there would be a file, and we can find it if it exists.

Q. Can you not tell me whether or not there is such a file?—A. With instructions as to a change in policy?

Q. A file containing a record of what happened, and showing when and how the change occurred, if there was a change?—A. If there was a change, there would be a file.

Q. Do you know of any, and can you not tell me at this moment whether there is such a file?—A. I would not be sure.

Q. Do you know whether or not there is a file in existence which gives the names of certain persons to whom the question of prosecutions must be referred?—A. In case of stills?

Q. Yes.—A. There must be a file of some kind.

Q. Is it not a fact that there is authority extended to some to authorize prosecutions, and withheld from others?—A. No.

Q. What is the file you have; just tell me about the one you say there must be; how is it described?—A. General instructions from the Customs. All these authorities for prosecutions we receive from the Chief Preventive Officer.

Q. Are you able to tell me, I am speaking now of the file which requires that certain matters be referred to certain parties who had authority to institute prosecutions?—A. I know of no such file.

Q. Have you got in your custody any file that contains any history of authorities given out to prosecute?—A. No. Each case, each authority, is on its own file.