

the argument. But that is what the additional revenue will be spent for; part will go to increase coverage, particularly in the maritime provinces and on the prairies, and part of the money will be spent in building better programs.

Mr. HEAPS: How much extra revenue does the minister expect to receive from the increased fee?

Mr. HOWE: We estimate the additional revenue at \$650,000.

Mr. TOMLINSON: I have had several complaints in the county of Bruce as to the method of collecting this tax or licence. Last fall I believe inspectors dropped in and laid about forty-two summonses. I am quite in favour of the act being enforced, but I believe the method is wrong in itself, especially in a rural community. I should like to make a very humble suggestion, which I think, if adopted, would work for the benefit of the department and of the people themselves. Although you instruct your collectors to make personal calls and notify the people that they must pay, that has not been done. I made particular inquiry to find that out. So, although they receive their notices, they allow the matter to slide from day to day.

I would suggest that the minister give consideration to appointing the assessor as the collector of radio licence fees. The assessor, who goes around in the spring of the year, must visit every home. That is his duty, though he has other duties as well. While he is obtaining his information as to the number in the family, and so on, he might also ascertain if they had one radio or two, and then make his personal demand for the licence fee, explaining at the same time that if they do not pay within a certain time he would notify the proper authorities and they would be liable to be summonsed.

Mr. HOWE: I appreciate the suggestion, and we are looking into the possibilities of doing something of that kind. It is quite possible that something may be done along those lines, but there again we find that an arrangement which would work out well in certain ridings would not work so well in others, depending upon the duties of the county assessors.

The suggestion of my hon. friend that the inspector drop around in the fall and then summons people out of a clear sky, will hardly bear analysis. I have had a good many people say that to me, and in each case I have been able to give them the record of the person

concerned. In almost every case whoever complained to me about an individual instance has gone away well satisfied that the person deserved to be prosecuted.

Mr. TOMLINSON: I should like to explain further that probably the greatest complaint is that when these inspectors do come around, they have a list of four, five or six houses. They walk in and ask if a person has a radio licence, and if they have none a summons is issued, because the department claim they have been notified previously. But those people realize that their next door neighbour, who has probably never bought a licence and who never pays a fee, is not summonsed. If this inspector drops in on them, they think he should drop into every home where the licence fee has not been paid.

Mr. TUSTIN: How many licences were issued last year, and how many does the minister estimate will be issued during the coming fiscal year?

Mr. HOWE: In 1936-1937 there were 1,038,000 licences sold. This year, to the end of January, there were 1,075,000.

Mr. TUSTIN: How much commission was paid to post offices and agents for issuing these licences?

Mr. HOWE: Where a salary is paid, the postmaster gets five cents per licence. Postmasters who work on commission receive fifteen cents per licence. The collector who is sent around gets twenty-five cents per licence.

Mr. TUSTIN: Has the minister the total amount that was paid?

Mr. HOWE: Of the licences issued, forty-one per cent were through post offices; thirty-seven per cent through house to house canvass, and eighteen per cent through radio dealers. Then 3,148 licences were issued free of charge to the blind. Whoever sells licences has a special book out of which he issues licences to blind persons.

Mr. TUSTIN: All I wanted was the total amount of commissions paid to agents and post offices.

Mr. HOWE: For 1,075,000 licences, \$179,542.55 was paid. That is for the year 1937-38 to January 31.

Mr. TUSTIN: Then I take it that \$103,709 was paid by the department for the collection of licences, and \$179,542.55 was paid in commissions?

Mr. HOWE: That is correct.