

Supply—Finance

Fees paid to official receivers in the province of Saskatchewan for the fiscal year April 1, 1949, to March 31, 1950—Concluded

E. B. Hutcherson	\$ 75.00
J. R. MacDonald	75.00
H. MacKay	390.00
J. A. MacMillan
C. B. McGregor
S. H. Miskiman
D. J. Mitchell	25.00
H. A. Rutherford	75.00
A. R. Smith
C. Stackhouse
G. S. Thompson
E. G. Waterman
Mrs. J. F. Watt
S. Windsor

In his next question he asked for particulars as to the number of cases in which forfeitures had taken place under the Foreign Exchange Control Act in each of the provinces during last year, and the number of cases in which there has been a return of moneys taken. Our records are not kept by provinces. I have here a return of the disposition of seizures in the country in 1949 and for the first five months in 1950, which I would also like to put on the record. It reads as follows:

Statement B

Disposition of Seizures of \$100 and Under

1949	No.	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollars
Cases dealt with.....	2,657	\$68,465	\$14,300
Seizures maintained....	1,097	22,707	10,236
Seizures returned.....	1,560	45,757	4,064
Per cent maintained....	41	33	71
1950—January to May			
Cases dealt with.....	545	\$15,058	\$ 3,144
Seizures maintained....	233	5,019	2,090
Seizures returned.....	312	10,039	1,054
Per cent maintained....	42	33	66

The third question asked was:

What was the total amount paid in legal fees last year?

It may be found at page 4082 of *Hansard*. The answer is as follows:

Statement C

A. Gervais, Murray Bay, P.Q.....	\$6,501.63
F. Monet, Ottawa (Includes some accounts of 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949).....	5,465.35
J. R. Johnson, Toronto.....	5,065.80

At page 4092 of *Hansard* the hon. member for Greenwood asked for the number of offices and the amount of space used by the wartime prices and trade board. There are 39 regional district and branch offices occupying a total of 103,591 square feet.

Item agreed to.

Payments to municipalities—

Grants to municipalities in lieu of taxes on federal property—

100 To provide for administration of the program respecting grants to municipalities in lieu of taxes on crown property outlined in the House of Com-

[Mr. Sinclair.]

mons on November 14, 1949, including grants and other payments to be made in accordance with regulations of the governor in council, \$1,655,000.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): The matter of grants to municipalities in respect of crown properties was up last November and the minister stated at that time, and it was stated again at the time of the speech from the throne, that there would be legislation. You may say that by passing this item it is legislation, but we have no legislation. The only authority we have for this is to pass this very item. I think this is a very extreme case of the kind of thing that was pointed out earlier, and which I think the Prime Minister said he would put a stop to.

Mr. Sinclair: This matter of municipal grants has occupied great attention in our department in the last two or three months because of the work of the committee which is now progressing very satisfactorily. However, because of some of the difficulties they encountered and because they felt the legislation would be better if we waited until the end of the year when they had assessed all the cities in the country which had more than four per cent and when they knew exactly the problems they would encounter, the legislation has not been introduced. One problem which was not anticipated was the matter of wear and tear on roads and snow removal in municipalities which had completely self-contained camps such as military camps. In the original statement these camps would not be included in tax computations. Nevertheless there is a loss of revenue to the municipality because of things like that. There are difficulties which are now being sorted out and it is still the intention to bring down an act, but it was felt it would be better if they waited until they had a complete survey of the problems arising out of this proposal, which is progressing very well at the moment.

Mrs. Fairclough: Will the legislation be prepared in time to be operative next year?

Mr. Sinclair: The original statement on this said that the grants would be paid from the beginning of this year. No matter when the final assessments are made the grants are retroactive to January 1, 1950.

Mrs. Fairclough: Do they apply only to those municipalities where the assessment on federal property is in excess of four per cent of the total assessment?

Mr. Sinclair: That is quite right.

Mrs. Fairclough: In what proportion are they paid, in ratio to the amount over and above the four per cent?