

forces can improve; he might make it worse. For these reasons I must voice my opposition to the mounted police or even the naval service having anything to do with the prevention of smuggling by sea. I understand it is intended to use aeroplanes in this service. I do not know upon whose recommendation this is being done, but I feel certain that the use of aeroplanes to prevent smuggling by sea will be one of the biggest fiascos ever seen in Canada. Smugglers are not in business to be caught; they do much of their work at night, and with their intimate knowledge of the bays, coves and isolated sections of the coast of the maritime provinces all the aeroplanes in the world would have no effect. In these days of economy I think the department should go slowly in adopting systems which cannot help but prove to be failures.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The department is looking very carefully into the question—

Mr. VENIOT: When it puts the mounted police in charge of the sea service?

Mr. GUTHRIE: If the hon. member will permit me to finish: we are looking very carefully into the question of having an air service to assist in the work down there. I may say to my hon. friend that I have not had painted to me that wonderful picture of law enforcement which he has painted. We hope to improve the present marine service of the customs department; we are retaining ninety per cent of the personnel, and we think we will have all the necessary experience at hand. In the meantime we are putting in charge a very experienced man in the person of Commander Oland. I may be wrong in my anticipation of improvement, but I hope I am not, and I believe that after this service has been in operation for a year or so my hon. friend will say we have brought about a wonderful improvement. I am sorry to see the dark picture he paints for us in connection with the bays and coves; I did not think it was as bad as all that, but I will guarantee that the service will be better.

Mr. VENIOT: It is just as bad at the border, because the smugglers there work at night. The efficiency of the preventive forces, either by land or by sea, should not be judged by the number of seizures made. It is the prevention of the violation of the law by smugglers which shows the true efficiency; with an efficient force, the smuggler is afraid to land and goes elsewhere. The result of the system carried out by the Customs department has been to drive these smugglers to the

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United States. When they discover that the force is efficient enough to prevent them from landing their goods in Canada, they go to the United States and do their smuggling into that country.

Mr. GUTHRIE: We will try to get the force efficient enough to prevent that.

Mr. YOUNG: Reverting to the case of the men who are being deported, the minister expressed doubt as to the accuracy of the newspaper reports, but I should like to ask him this question: Will he, as Minister of Justice, undertake to see that these men are not deported until the facts are laid before him, and if after he has examined the facts he finds that the newspaper reports are substantially correct, will he see that these men are taken back to Winnipeg for trial?

Mr. GUTHRIE: If my hon. friend had heard all the discussion on this matter I think he would realize that he is asking a rather foolish question. This whole matter comes under another department and under an act of this parliament with which I have nothing particularly to do. I have listened patiently to all the complaints, and I shall be glad to bring them to the attention of my colleagues. Perhaps this discussion should not have taken place on these estimates, but I am glad to have had the views of hon. members. If it is the opinion of hon. members that amendments should be made to the Immigration Act, I shall offer no opposition. But, as I said before, the act is as it has been for the last twelve years, and all this is taking place in accordance with the provisions of the act.

Mr. YOUNG: This being Friday night, the Minister of Immigration is not in the house; neither is the Prime Minister. It will be Monday before we shall be able to question either of them, and in the meantime these men may be deported.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is to be a complete and fair investigation. After the investigation takes place, the cases are submitted to the Department of Immigration, at which time parties can be heard before the minister. In many cases the minister hears similar representations. No railroading is being done except in the newspaper columns. Should my hon. friend want to make representations when these cases come back to the department, I can assure him that he will be heard. If these men desire to have their counsel appear for them, I assure my hon. friend that they will be heard.