

SPECIAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, February 9, 1926.

The Committee met at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Messrs. Bell (Hamilton, West), Bennett, Donaghy, Doucet, Elliott, Kennedy (Peace River), Mercier (St. Henri), St. Père, and Stevens, 9.

In attendance: Hon. G. H. Boivin, Minister of Customs and Excise.

On motion of Mr. Elliott; it was

*Resolved*, That Mr. Mercier (St. Henri), be chairman of the Committee.

The Order of Reference was read by the clerk.

The question of obtaining the services of a French interpreter and a French stenographer having been discussed,

Mr. Bennett moved

That the clerk be authorized to obtain the services of a competent French interpreter, and also a competent French stenographer, which was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Boivin informed the Committee that the Government was willing to engage counsel for the purpose of assisting the Committee in bringing out the facts in evidence in connection with the investigation, and that he had accordingly communicated with Mr. Aimé Geoffrion, K.C., of Montreal, who had accepted the mandate.

Objection having been taken by some of the members to the appointment of a counsel for the Committee by the Government, instead of by the Committee itself, after discussion, it was, on motion of Mr. Bennett, *Resolved*: That Mr. Aimé Geoffrion be recognized as appearing for the Department of Customs and Excise.

The question of the appointment of counsel to assist the Committee was postponed to a later meeting.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Stevens:—That summons be issued requiring the attendance upon the Committee, on Wednesday, 17th February, and to remain until discharged, of official representatives of the following firms:—

Charles Jenkins, Jenkins Overall Co., Rock Island, Que.

Mr. Bissonnette, Peerless Overall Co., Rock Island, Que.

Mr. Turner, Snag Proof Overall Co., Rock Island, Que.

G. Scherer, Ford, Ont.

John W. Gaunt, John W. Gaunt & Co., Ltd., Montréal, Que.