

as forcible entry of premises. If that can be done, well and good. I have no desire that it shall be in any formal way. But if a fellow has a right to be heard before a man of that character, in respect of these extraordinary functions, I am satisfied.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That refers to the commissioner, the one who has the administration of the Act, instead of the commission. At present it is the commission, which is composed of three members—Judge Sedgewick—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I just mean the one, the chairman of the commission. If his fiat is necessary before the harassment is launched, O.K., let the other man go ahead.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUNTON: Put a man over the commissioner for this purpose.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I think Mr. Rogers will tell you, as he has told me, that he does not see how it can be done. Further, I draw the attention of the Committee to this fact, that since the inception of the Act—When was that?

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: 1910—before that.

The LAW CLERK: 1919 was the beginning.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: The Trade and Commerce Act.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We have had the administration of the Act since 1923, so we have the same background. We have the new Act of 1935. Could the Minister or Mr. McGregor tell us what happened during those years in the administration, and why it is believed we should refer to the Minister of Labour?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am not objecting to that at all. I just want some sort of non-political supervision of the launching of the process, some authority for it, and the person who authorizes it should be convinced that there is a case for it, that it is not done in answer to some whim or to gain votes.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUNTON: In the exercise of certain powers he shall have the fiat of Judge Sedgewick.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I should like to know whether Mr. O'Connor thinks what I suggest is feasible in the exercise of the Act.

The LAW CLERK: My experience as a draftsman is that anything that is wanted can be reduced to understandable words.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That is not the point. My point is this. Is it feasible and practicable to insist by legislation that before one of these proceedings is launched the Chief Commissioner of the Trade and Industry Commission shall authorize it.

The LAW CLERK: That is a very familiar principle. If I want to sue, ordinarily I can sue—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: If you sue you take the risk. But they do not take any risk on earth. They get some money into the hands of their lawyer friends, and so on.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would ask the Minister to express his views.

Hon. Mr. COTÉ: Before he does, may I say that this is not a new principle in the administration of justice. There are many offences under the Criminal Code which cannot be prosecuted without the consent of the Attorney-General. After all, what Mr. Meighen suggests is simply this, that before the commissioner proceeds an application shall be made by six persons, and the commissioner shall obtain the fiat of so and so.

The LAW CLERK: Under the 1919 legislation there was a provision that no prosecution should take place under section 498 of the Code, or resulting from the 1919 act, without the consent of—I think it was the Attorney-General of Canada.