

STEVENS ASKS CUSTOMS PROBE

Vancouver Member Charges
Dishonesty in Connection
With Smuggling.

CITES MONTREAL CASE

By CHARLES BISHOP.

OTTAWA, Dec. 1.—A parliamentary enquiry into the operation of the customs department in regard to smuggling is proposed, and allegations of laxity, inefficiency and dishonesty are referred to by Hon. H. H. Stevens, who has given formal notice of a resolution on the subject. The basic case referred to is that of J. E. A. Bisillon of Montreal, aspects of which have been aired before the courts. Mr. Stevens proposes that:

"Whereas it is a matter of public knowledge that large quantities of goods are being smuggled into Canada, and that

"Whereas evidence presented in Canadian courts has indicated actions by J. E. A. Bisillon, a customs officer, which can not be regarded as other than reprehensible in any government official, and

"Whereas the said J. E. A. Bisillon, instead of being dismissed has been promoted in the customs department, and

"Whereas it appears that any unbiased investigation would bring to light methods employed by smugglers to the disadvantage of the revenue of the country, and would disclose laxity, inefficiency and dishonesty on the part of certain customs officials,

"Therefore be it resolved that a special committee be appointed to investigate at this session the administration of the customs department in relation to all matters affecting the preventing of smuggling."

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