

the only way in which this money could be utilized beyond what can be properly done to-day under the customs law and the practices of the department. So I think this item ought to be struck out and the Government should take more time to consider the matter before they put such an item in the Estimates. They tell us that smuggling is on the increase. I think it can be safely said that, previous to the introduction of this new tariff, of which I will not speak further, smuggling was not on the increase but, on the contrary, owing to the efforts of the Customs Department, seconded by those in the communities along the St. Lawrence who desired to see law and order maintained—and particularly the Roman Catholic priesthood in the province of Quebec who strove most strenuously to prevent smuggling and who deserve great credit for their efforts, which efforts, I am glad to acknowledge—smuggling was decreasing. Where smuggling of whisky is carried on it demoralizes the whole community. Now it is proposed to take \$5,000 of the people's money for a secret service fund. I think that is objectionable. The necessity for a secret service to be used in any such way as it is here proposed, has passed away. I would therefore ask the Government to reconsider this question, and, pending the reconsideration, to strike out this item.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The information that comes to the Government leads us to the belief that my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace) is mistaken when he says that smuggling is on the increase.

Mr. WALLACE. I said that it had been on the increase up to the time the new tariff was introduced.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is just the point I was coming to. The idea that smuggling is on the increase since the introduction of the new tariff is not in accordance with the information we have. What the hon. gentleman says of the efforts put forth by the clergy in the province of Quebec is undoubtedly correct, and it is exceedingly gratifying to have my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace) bear testimony to it. Notwithstanding that they have done the best they could to assist the strenuous efforts of the Government, the information in the department has been that the smuggling evil, previous to the new tariff even, was growing greater. The ordinary machinery of the department is not enough to grapple with this evil. The experiment is to be made—and it is only an experiment—to deal with the matter in another way. This is practically a detective vote, a police vote, not necessarily for the Dominion police, but for any officer who may be employed by the Department of Justice. In dealing with this matter we find it necessary to depart from the ordinary methods of Government. If we

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were to take a large sum for this purpose, no doubt it would be objectionable, or even if we were to take a small sum without providing for a proper audit, it would be open to objection. That aspect of the case has been very carefully considered. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) gave the assurance—I do not know whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) was present at the time—that the record of expenditures would be submitted to the Auditor General, and, if desired, to the leader of the Opposition. As the amount is not a very large one and the evil to be overcome is admitted to be very great, we feel that the House will support us in trying this experiment.

Mr. MACLEAN. Is there a similar vote in Washington?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This Government does not look to Washington—

Mr. MACLEAN. But I am asking whether there is such a vote.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am not aware; I cannot answer my hon. friend (Mr. Maclean).

Mr. MACLEAN. I was only going to say to the Minister of Finance that I do not know but that this is a good vote. I am a protectionist and—it may be an unwise admission for me to make—if you have a protective tariff and there are wrongs done under it, you must find means of putting down these wrongs and enforcing the law. I believe that at Washington they have such a vote as this, and I have never heard it complained of. In connection with this matter and in connection with specific duties, which hon. gentlemen have often talked against, that matter was brought before the House at Washington the other day, and it was shown that the only way that they could get a revenue in and protect native industries was by maintaining specific duties; and the free traders there were the men who attacked the ad valorem duties on the ground that they did not protect the revenues.

The CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). In answer to the ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace), I may say that he is entirely mistaken when he says that smuggling was on the decrease prior to the introduction of the new tariff; at least, if he is correct, all the information in the department on that subject must be wrong. The hon. gentleman has given testimony, and, I think, just testimony, to the efforts of the clergy in the province of Quebec to abate this evil. I may say that the strongest representations we get on the subject are from these gentlemen, and their report is that, instead of smuggling being on the decrease before the present tariff, it was