

Supply—Justice

is, they have complete *carte blanche* with no limiting terms of reference of any kind at all. They are given the act and they can bring back any kind of finding on it that they see fit by conducting any kind of investigation they see fit. They have found a very great public interest in their work, I think perhaps even more than they expected. They had hoped that all of the necessary briefs would come in by at least the late fall of last year. They were still receiving briefs well on past the new year. That has held up their work in two ways. First, because they could not get down to drafting of the report until they had a complete complement of briefs and materials and oral presentations; and second, because the members of the committee, all of whom are quite eminent men, with heavy duties of their own, had set aside time from their own work within which they had figured in advance that their work on the committee would be completed. When this allotted time was exhausted they found it increasingly difficult to make other times available from their own work. The result is that, as I was recently discussing with Mr. Justice McQuarrie, the chairman of the committee, just the other day, they now think that they will be able to bring down the report perhaps before the close of the fall session of parliament. I want to emphasize that they do not give a firm commitment upon that point, but that is their present target; and they say that given a reasonable amount of good fortune they think they can make it.

Mr. Knowles: The minister will table that report, I take it, as soon as it is in his hands?

Mr. Garson: Decidedly.

Mr. Knowles: Within fifteen days?

Mr. Garson: Quite.

Mr. Benidickson: Is this the committee that is considering at the present time the question that is much thought about these days, namely, the question of resale price maintenance agreements?

Mr. Garson: Yes, I think it would be in the sense that their terms of reference are so wide that they are in no way restricted. For my own part I do not see how they could deal with the subject with which they are dealing without including in their consideration this matter of resale price maintenance; and I understand they have sought representations concerning it.

Item agreed to.

General—

180. To provide for the revision, classification and consolidation of the public general statutes of Canada, \$57,500.

[Mr. Garson.]

Mr. Knowles: How is this work getting on? When may we expect the new revised statutes?

Mr. Garson: By good fortune we might possibly be able to bring them in in 1952, but I would not want to make a firm commitment in that regard. This is a very large body of work.

Item agreed to.

704. To provide for the revision of the Criminal Code—further amount required, \$20,000.

Mr. Higgins: If the chairman will excuse me I have a couple of remarks to make. The minister knows what I want to say. It has to do with the question of the establishment of district courts in Newfoundland. There is something very wrong about it, as the minister knows. The minister has said in answer to questions that the provincial legislature has not made application, or at least has not passed laws in regard to it, and he cannot do anything about it. Something has to be done. Will the minister tell me what can be done?

Mr. Garson: I hope my hon. friend will permit me a slight correction in his remarks. I did not allege at all that the legislature of Newfoundland has not passed a district court act for that province which creates judicial vacancies for us to fill. What I do allege is that in connection with this matter we have been in close touch with the government of Newfoundland, which has set up what for that province is, I understand, an entirely new type of court. The minute you appoint judges to such courts it puts the whole system into operation and, from that point crystallizes it. From that point it is difficult for the provincial authorities to make any changes which on second thought might seem advisable.

The provincial government has been agreeable to our not making these appointments before now. I think we will be making some shortly. In the meanwhile I do not think it can be contended that litigants in Newfoundland are being seriously prejudiced because the last information that I have is to the effect that in the last judicial year the number of cases tried in the supreme court of Newfoundland, which, by their nature and by the amount involved would have fallen within the district court jurisdiction, was nine. Having regard to the fact that supreme court judges there, as I am informed, are not terribly overburdened with the volume of supreme court litigation and the fact that they have under the terms of the district court act the express authority to exercise judicial powers under that act, and therefore, as supreme court judges, can try these district court cases under the district court act as