

Supply—Justice

Nova Scotia, and the other gentleman is Mr. Curtis, the dean of the university of British Columbia law school. I do not believe it would be possible to get four better men to conduct an inquiry of this sort. Their terms of reference are very wide, and no restriction is imposed upon the commission in any way. No specific matters have been referred to them. What we want is their opinion, after a careful examination, as to what, if any, changes could be made in the act to improve its operation.

Item agreed to.

144. To provide for the revision, classification and consolidation of the public general statutes of Canada, \$75,000.

Mr. Fleming: Could the minister tell us what progress is being made with the revision of the statutes?

Mr. Garson: Progress in matters of this kind is never quite as rapid as one would hope. On the whole we regard it as satisfactory. Some of the products, not so much of the commission itself, but of the work which is being done by Mr. Driedger in the drafting and consolidation of statutes, have come before this house from time to time.

Mr. Fleming: The minister has not indicated when he expects the work to be completed. My recollection is that when Mr. Ilsley obtained authority from the house to undertake this consolidation he indicated that the task would cover about three years. I am speaking from memory now, but that must have been two years ago. Can the minister indicate when we may expect completion?

Mr. Garson: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that by the time the work is finally completed, Mr. Ilsley's prophecy will have proven to be a little bit on the conservative side.

Mr. Fleming: What do you mean by "conservative"?

Mr. Garson: His estimate of time will have proven to be too small. I should think it will take not less than two years from the present time to complete this task.

Item agreed to.

145. To provide for the revision of the Criminal Code, \$50,000.

Mr. Fleming: What progress is being made with the revision of the Criminal Code and when may we expect completion of the task?

Mr. Garson: We would expect that in not less than two years.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Garson.]

Penitentiaries—

146. Administration of the office of the commissioner of penitentiaries, including \$35,000 for grants to recognized prisoners' aid societies, as may be approved by the governor in council, \$263,430.

Mr. Bryce: When the minister's estimates were up last year, I believe I asked him about the quota for prisons. I explained to him that I thought the quota for a prison should be something like the crew on the *Queen Elizabeth*, it should always be fully staffed in case of a riot or breakaway. The minister told me the quota was 80 per cent, and it has been increased. By how much has it been increased?

Mr. Garson: I have not that answer at the moment, but I can secure it and give it to my friend before the committee rises.

Mr. Bryce: Then I asked the minister about the hours and wages last year. I asked about the working week. He told me that it was under active consideration. I think those were the words he used. Can he tell me what progress he has made with regard to giving the custodians and the guards at the penitentiaries in Canada a 44-hour week?

Mr. Garson: We can report progress on that.

Mr. Knowles: Conservative progress.

Mr. Fleming: Ask leave to sit again.

Mr. Bryce: Am I to understand from the minister—

Mr. Casselman: You understand that you do not get any information.

Mr. Bryce: It is a bad example for a government department to have men working 51 hours a week when other departments of the civil service are working 40 hours a week. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. I do not think that is fair, and I hope that the minister will speed up that action. These men are as much entitled to a 44-hour week as anybody else. They are asking only for a 44-hour week.

Mr. Garson: I might reply to my hon. friend that the progress we are reporting is this. The necessary employees to put this reduction in working hours into effect has been authorized by the government and we are gradually hiring them now, so that in due course the reduction will be put into effect.

Mr. Bryce: Has the minister provided enough money in the estimates in order to take care of that?

Mr. Garson: Yes. As a matter of fact, it is already in effect in about three penitentiaries.