

# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, 10th February, 1926.

The Committee met at 10.30 o'clock, a.m., Mr. Mercier, the Chairman, presiding.

Present: Messrs. Bell, Bennett, Donaghy, Doucet, Elliott, Kennedy, Mercier, St. Père and Stevens—9.

Mr. Aime Geoffrion, K.C., counsel for the Department of Customs and Excise, was in attendance. Hon. Mr. Boivin, Minister of Customs and Excise, was also present.

The minutes of yesterday's meeting of the Committee were read and approved.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Stevens,

*Ordered*, That 1,000 copies of the day-to-day proceedings and evidence of the Committee be printed.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Stevens,

*Ordered*, That a summons be issued requiring the attendance on the Committee of R. P. Sparks, Esq., Ottawa, at the sitting of the Committee on Tuesday next, and from day to day until discharged, and to produce all reports to the Government on matters relating to the Customs and Excise Department on smuggling, and copies of all correspondence with any Ministers or officers of the Crown.

Hon. Mr. Stevens gave notice that at a later date he would move that a group of business men be called before the Committee.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bennett,

*Resolved*, That the Commercial Protective Association be permitted to be represented by counsel before the Committee.

Discussion took place as to the order of procedure to be followed in pursuing the inquiry. Mr. Donaghy moved that the chief officers of the Department of Customs and Excise be first heard. Mr. Bell moved in amendment thereto that Commissioner Starnes and Superintendent Cawdron, both of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, be first heard. The Committee divided, yeas 5, nays 3. Amendment agreed to. Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Commissioner Cortlandt Starnes, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was called and sworn. He was examined by Messrs. Bennett, Stevens and Bell. During his examination, Commissioner Starnes produced a number of reports and documents, as required by his subpoena.

*Ordered*, That the said reports and documents be place in the custody of the Clerk of the Committee, with instructions that the same should not be open to examination by any persons other than members of the Committee, and that they be not taken out of the clerk's room or the committee room.