

Commission named by this Government to investigate and report to the House upon the circumstances arising out of the charges that my honorable friend made in his speech and which will be referred specifically to him to report upon.

A Roving Commission.

It was not the intention to refer to the Commission the accounts of the License Department from 1913-19. These will go before the Public Accounts Committee, and it will have the roving commission of inquiring into the administration of the O.T.A. He saw no reason why the Government should pay for counsel to represent the Opposition and provide other counsel to prosecute. The procedure before the Commission was a matter for the Commissioner.

Mr. Dewart said that in making the motion last week he felt that by having a special committee of the House the affairs of the License Board could be investigated without interfering with the work of other committees, and very economically. He had taken certain responsibilities in making the statements he did, and he felt it only proper counsel should be provided to appear before the Commissioner. He referred to an investigation in 1903, when the Government of the day had appointed two senior counsel and one junior—the latter the present Provincial Secretary—to represent the Opposition. He told the Attorney-General that before the investigation was completed the latter would have reason to withdraw the remarks about “innuendoes and insinuations.”

In order to try and meet the two wings of the Opposition, Sir William Hearst said, the Government had referred all the matters to the Public Accounts Committee. In order to leave no room for saying efforts had been made to cover up anything, a Commissioner had been appointed to investigate specific charges. A week ago he had said that if any specific charges were formulated they would be referred to the Commissioner. “I don't know anything could be done fairer,” he said.
