

CLAIMS INJUSTICE WAS DONE FLEMING

Charles McCrea Says Appeal Was Refused Convicted Station Agent

TRIED UNDER GAME ACT

Following a strong speech from Charles McCrea (Conservative, Sudbury) in the Legislature yesterday, in which he alleged that injustice was being done to one, William George Fleming, a former Station Agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway at Nemegos, Hon. Manning Doherty, leading the House at the time, suggested that the debate should be adjourned until the Attorney-General should return to the House, and that, in the meantime, a small committee of the Legislature, as suggested by Mr. McCrea, might be appointed to investigate the whole case.

Fleming, Mr. McCrea told the House, had been convicted in Chapleau in 1921 on two charges, one of having moose meat in his possession, and the other of having beaver skins in his possession. The first charge was overruled on appeal, but the latter charge sustained. Subsequently, Fleming obtained evidence by affidavit regarding the real ownership of the beaver skins. Mr. McCrea said, but the Appeal Judge had felt he could not admit this evidence and Osgoode Hall had held there was no further appeal. Mr. McCrea said that he himself had tried to have the case reconsidered by the Department of Fisheries and by the Attorney-General, and had failed. Hence he felt he was justified in bringing the case to the "high court of the people."

Hon. Harry Mills, replying to Mr. McCrea's speech, after reading to the House the decision of the Judge of Appeal, said that he had gone over the matter carefully and was convinced that justice had been done in the case of Fleming. It was then that Mr. McCrea asked for a committee of the House to consider the case, and in this he was supported by Thomas Marshall (Liberal, Lincoln), Edgar Watson (U.F.O., North Victoria), and R. R. Hall (Liberal, Parry Sound), the latter declaring that the case had been "much talked of in the whole of the North Country and the general impression is that he is not getting a square deal at the hands of the Government."

Hon. Manning Doherty said that the committee, if appointed, should go into the whole case, because, he was certain, the honorable member in his heart believed that injustice was being done to the man. He suggested adjourning the debate until the attorney-General could be in the House and in the meantime the committee could be named.