

where they would not be carried out so publicly, it would be a worthy service to the country at large.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): We have found out, of course, that that is entirely under provincial jurisdiction. The administration of justice is within the control of the provinces. That is why the matter of law reform, to which the hon. member for Broadview has referred, has not been dealt with more particularly. We enact the criminal law; but criminal trials, criminal courts, sheriffs and matters of that kind are under the control of the provinces.

That applies equally to executions. I have at times received from gentlemen who were applying for the position of hangman in Canada, letters specifying that they were strong and physically able to do the job and were not afraid of carrying out executions. Of course, I had to answer that I had nothing to do with the matter. The sheriff of the district where the execution is to take place is the man who is responsible. He makes arrangements with someone who is known to be an official executioner, and the sheriff takes care to apply immediately to make sure that he will get his man, because if he does not get an executioner he must do the work himself. But this is just to say that we have absolutely nothing to do with that matter.

There is another side to the question raised by my hon. friend. One of the reasons for capital punishment, whatever opinion we may have upon that method, is its deterrent effect upon the community. It has been felt for a long time that it was a good thing that the execution, if an execution had to take place, should be in the very district where the crime had been committed, that its deterrent effect was thereby the greater. I express no opinion myself, but that is the situation behind the state of things which exists to-day.

Mr. MARTIN: It may be necessary to have the executions take place in Peel.

Mr. GRAYDON: I suggest in reciprocation that the central place of execution be Windsor.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): There is another point of view. When this matter came before the public a few years ago, it was suggested that all executions in the maritime provinces should take place in the town of Dorchester, where the penitentiary is. The people of that community revolted at the idea of their town being made a Golgotha. I think they are right.

Item agreed to.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

[Mr. Graydon.]

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

88. Remission service, including remuneration to members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police force (to be expended under order in council, and not to exceed \$1,600) for assistance to this service, and an amount of \$10,900 to reimburse the Royal Canadian Mounted Police force the amounts disbursed by them in ordinary pay and allowances to their men on loan to this service, \$50,000.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Are applications for remissions dealt with direct by Ottawa, or does the minister have anything to do with the attorneys-general's departments of the province?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): It is dealt with by Ottawa.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): In the matter of the reduction or remission of a sentence, does it come direct to and is it dealt with by Ottawa, or does this department have any communication with the provincial attorneys-general's departments before making a decision?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): No. We usually ask for a report from the judge who sentenced the man, and from the warden of the penitentiary or the prison, as the case may be, in order to have every particular about the man.

Mr. CHURCH: May I ask the minister a question in connection with the mounted police? As a result of the war and some other conditions, in the cities the administration of many federal acts elsewhere administered by the mounted police devolves upon the city police commissions. They are an auxiliary and a helper of that great force. Would it not be possible for the minister to put in the estimates a sum to compensate the municipalities which are doing all this federal work for nothing? The war has placed a big responsibility upon the municipalities. It was intended that the enforcement of all federal law should be on the federal authority, but it is on the provincial attorneys general, who simply delegate it over to the police systems of the country, and the cities have to maintain a large body of men to do federal work. I forget how many statutes apply to the cities, but their enforcement costs a very large sum of money. I think the time has come when there should be some revision of this relationship, whereby our police systems would receive some subsidy.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I would ask hon. members kindly to wait until the item concerning the mounted police comes up, and I shall have an officer here to supply me with