

country by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It is impossible to put a dollars-and-cents value on their services. I speak now more particularly of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer that you do not see—or at least you do not see him until it is too late. These men have to be experts in every line of sabotage. I do not need to tell the committee because it must know that attempts at sabotage have been made in Canada during the past year, and I think we can congratulate ourselves in this country upon our remarkable record of lack of sabotage in Canada, which has been due almost entirely to the wonderful work done by the mounted police.

Their salary as third-class constables starts at \$1.50 a day. They get a 5-cent raise a day every year until they reach \$2.25, if my information is right, after nine years, not seven. The plain-clothes men get an allowance of 25 cents a day for their plain-clothes and a living allowance of \$1 a day as well. The maximum that a constable can get after nine years' service in the force is just about \$100 a month or a little over \$3 a day, and from that all taxes and the superannuation contribution are deducted.

One other item I should like to mention is the question of allowing these men enough expenses when they are out on a case. We are not looking for saboteurs who live in the gutter or frequent low dives. The intelligent saboteurs stay at the best hotels in the country, belong to good clubs, travel by Pullman and engage drawing rooms. They are the completely unsuspected saboteurs. They are the men whom the mounted police must look for and are looking for, but at the present rate of allowances they are working under tremendous difficulties in keeping on the trail of such men. I suggest to the minister that the allowances be made extremely generous, particularly in war time. I would also suggest that the minimum pay be raised to at least \$3 a day for a man just starting in with the force and go on up to two and a half times what the rate is at the present time. We cannot appreciate the job that is being done by this special force, and I would urge the minister as strongly as I can to consider putting this question of pay and allowances up to the treasury board in the strongest possible manner.

Mr. LOCKHART: May I inquire of the minister if the 500 additional members of the force have been engaged or only a part of that number?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): There have been 250 selected and engaged, and if the full quota has not been engaged it is because of lack of accommodation.

Mr. LOCKHART: I come from a community which needs careful scrutiny as much probably as any other part of Canada; on numerous occasions I have talked with the very best type of men that could be secured for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and I have on occasion written the department with regard to peculiarly well qualified young men who were desirous of joining the force. But because of the present rates of pay I have found an aversion to joining the force on the part of many young men who by background and environment would make in my opinion—probably it is not worth very much—the very best type of officer, the kind which has been appealed for here to-night. I could easily count ten young men who have said, "My desire was to join this service if physically fit and able to meet the other requirements". The hon. member for Parry Sound referred to university training. I think he was wrong there.

Mr. SLAGHT: Not university training but matriculation into a university. That is the test.

Mr. LOCKHART: These young men who have spoken to me have gone away sadly disappointed, and many of them have told me that they would love to join the force if only the remuneration were sufficient to give them a living wage as the years went by. Therefore I want to add my humble voice to those of other hon. members and appeal to the minister to urge upon the treasury board a higher rate of pay for the force because, I repeat, I know at least ten of the finest young men in my county who would make splendid officers, who have not put in an application simply because the remuneration was so low over such a long period of years that they could not possibly support themselves on it.

Mr. GRAHAM: As an agent of the crown in Saskatchewan I have had a long connection with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I do not think I can add anything to what has been said with regard to the injustice of the present rates of pay. Because it is poor business for that to continue, if for no other reason, we should increase the pay and allowances as quickly as possible.

The mounted police were originally formed as a military body and the establishment is a military establishment, but their duties in the last few years have changed considerably. There is no longer the task which was presented to the mounted police in the early days of patrolling the border to guard against infractions of dominion law. They are carrying on a most difficult task, apart from