

*Royal Canadian Mounted Police*

ing to the record of service. The recommendations of the department are submitted to the commissioner, and I think in almost every case they have been accepted.

Mr. ILSLEY: My information is that political considerations have entered into the selection of these officers. Before I go any further, I should like to ask if that has been the basis of selection in the past?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It has had absolutely nothing to do with it since August 1, 1930.

Mr. ILSLEY: How does the force select its new recruits?

Mr. GUTHRIE: A man first makes an application; he is then examined by a competent board and if he meets with the educational, physical and mental requirements of the force and there is a vacancy on the force, he is accepted.

Mr. ILSLEY: I desire to bring to the attention of the minister a case in my constituency which I consider to be one of absolute injustice. I do not believe in taking up the time of the committee or the house in discussing individual cases, unless they strike me as being absolutely unjust. A few moments ago the minister said that the selection from the preventive service was based upon the records of the men. In one of the towns in my constituency there resides a young man who has been a member of the preventive force for the last three or four years. Perhaps before I go any further the minister could advise if access could be had to the records of this man?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I will have no objection to giving the record to my hon. friend, but I do not think I would like to state it in the committee.

Mr. ILSLEY: I shall call and look at the record but I am very sure that there is nothing against this man. He is a fine type of preventive officer and is well spoken of where he lives and does his work. He has a wife and five children and has attended to his duties carefully and well since his appointment. In the same town resides another man who was appointed to the preventive force very recently and who has had no service at all. I cannot tell the minister just how many days' service he has had, but it does not amount to anything. The first man finds himself let out while the second man has been taken into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In this case the selection could not have been made upon the service record. The first man belongs

[Mr. Guthrie.]

to the Liberal party while the second man belongs to the Conservative party and took an active part during the last elections. It is currently reported that this man has been appointed as a reward for the work he did during the elections. That is what the people in that town and I believe, and I am calling this instance to the attention of the minister because of the fact that the people in that part of Nova Scotia believe that for the first time in its history that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is recruiting its force on political consideration.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The case mentioned by my hon. friend has never been brought to my notice. If he will give me the name I will have the record placed before him. I might say that I have never been consulted by the commissioner in regard to a single appointment. The commissioner is now in the gallery and I suggest to my hon. friend that he go and discuss this case with him.

Mr. ILSLEY: I would point out that the commissioner would not have anything to do with these appointments, it would be the Department of National Revenue.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The commissioner would be the man who would finally make the appointment. In response to a question asked the other day, I submitted a list of 49 names, but I have not been consulted about one name. My only information as to the method of selection is that it is made on the grounds of meritorious service in the department. The names were submitted to the commissioner by the department and if for any reason unknown to me he sees fit to reject any particular man he does so, but he does not refer to me.

Mr. ILSLEY: It is obvious from what I have said that no blame attaches to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) or to the commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; the blame attaches to the person or persons in the Department of National Revenue who made the selection.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I do not know that there would be any blame as the record may disclose something.

Mr. ILSLEY: I will change that: the blame, if any, would attach to the Department of National Revenue. Of course, the commissioner is limited to the list placed before him, which list does not embrace all the officers in the preventive service. I am challenging the making up of that list. I have other instances in mind, but I have