

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Stirling in the chair.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police: pay of force (including salaries of two constables, Ellesmere Island district, at \$2.25 per diem, to insure department against loss through death), \$1,740,595.75.

Maintenance (including subsistence, billeting, travelling expenses, forage, fuel and light, clothing, repairs and renewals, horses, ammunition, stationery, etc., medical, hospital, etc., transportation and freight, building repairs and renewals, establishment of new detachments, contingencies and criminal investigations), \$1,964,000.

To compensate members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for injuries received in the performance of duty, \$10,000.

To assist in the enforcement of federal statutes (expenditure chargeable to this vote shall be in connection with such federal police duties as may be defined by the governor in council, upon recommendation of the Minister of Justice), \$75,000.

To provide for special services in connection with the enforcement of the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, \$50,000.—Total, \$3,839,595.75.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Does this include the salaries of the commissioner and the assistant commissioner whose appointment was recently arranged for?

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): It includes the salary of the commissioner, but there will be a slight increase in respect of the deputy commissioner who is to be appointed under the bill recently passed.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: What is the salary of the commissioner?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It is \$12,000.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Does the commissioner receive any pension?

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, not while he is drawing a salary.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: There is another matter about which I should like to ask, which we had up in the house to-day, that is with regard to men who are threatened with deportation. I think the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are concerned in this matter as well as the Department of Immigration. I have the following wire dated May 2 from Abrahamson and Greenberg, Confederation Life Building, Winnipeg:

Daniel Holmes (Chomici), aged thirty-four, in Canada with parents and brothers and sisters twenty years, with Canadian wife and child, no police record; and Konrad Cessinger,

single, unnaturalized, in Canada five years, no police record; and Orton Wade, believed Canadian born, arrested by R.C.M.P. authorities within last twenty-four hours. Authorities refused to produce to us warrants and deliberately misled and delayed us in obtaining redress. Advised by assistant commissioner Field, R.C.M.P., that all three men left by train east to-night for deportation purposes. Immigration commissioner Smith denies all knowledge of the matter and says same not dealt with by his department. Neither Mrs. Holmes nor anyone else advised prior to departure of above mentioned persons. We would appreciate it if you would make inquiries regarding this as we consider it an outrage and a breach of the regulations laid down in the Immigration Act. Would urge that this be introduced on floor of house as this should not be allowed to remain as a precedent for the R.C.M.P.

I notice that in the last two Winnipeg papers to reach Ottawa quite considerable prominence is given to this case. From what I can learn it would seem that these men are suspected of being closely connected with the communist organization, but no charges were laid against them, and when their counsel instituted habeas corpus proceedings they were unable to carry them through because the men had already left. According to the press, legal opinion seemed in doubt as to whether habeas corpus proceedings could be carried on, because the men had left the province.

As I am advised by this wire, these men have been in the country for quite a long time—one for twenty years. According to one of the Winnipeg papers he had tried to secure naturalization but was unable to do so. This makes the case look peculiar. Further it seemed to me a strange proceeding, when I telephoned the Immigration department, that I should be told by the official immediately in charge that he could give me no information at all about the matter but that I would have to ask the minister. When I interviewed the minister over the telephone I was told that the matter had not yet come to his attention. The circumstances are rather curious, and as I am inclined to think the matter must rest very largely with the mounted police, I am bringing it up to-night. I take it from what the Minister of Immigration said this afternoon that this must be considered typical of other cases. This case concerns me, however, since it has to do with Winnipeg men.

I do not think we in this house are concerned with whether or not these men are communists. That is not the reason I am raising the question. If they are communists, and if the decision given by the court of appeal stands, I presume it is possible to bring them up for trial as communists and to