

*Supply—Justice*

Alfred Forward, 26, was clubbed over the head and beaten about the arms and chest and left unconscious between two parked cars. He was picked up by other loggers and carried to a house and revived.

At another point a logger standing in a backyard bordering the road watched the police escorting handcuffed, dazed loggers away. He shouted: "You sure have guts, haven't you?"

An officer pointed to him and yelled: "Get that man, get him now." The logger turned and fled and about 25 mounties and policemen cleared the yard fence like jackrabbits and chased him down toward a row of houses. He was beaten to the ground and arrested. One mountie bounded into Mrs. Frances Piercy and knocked her down.

"He never even looked back to see if I was all right", she said.

Her husband is Ernest Piercy, a picket and employee of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company for 30 years.

The 66 police in the column came swinging down the road and marched past the massed strikers. It appeared the marchpast was to decide the strength of the assembly.

The incident occurred in the neighbourhood of 6 p.m.

**Mr. Lambert:** Is the hon. member accepting these statements as facts?

**Mr. Peters:** Yes, I am accepting these statements as facts because I have been in picket lines on many occasions. I know about the actions of the police in this type of affair. I have seen them in the past and I have received many of the results of some of these actions. I am quite willing to accept it. On the other hand, nobody has denied it.

**Mr. Fulton:** I do not like to interrupt the hon. gentleman on a question of privilege, but my whole statement in this house on March 11 was a denial of the *Star's* newspaper story and the general impression it sought to create.

**Mr. Peters:** I do not accept that as evidence because of the fact that the minister is accepting what certain people say. I will go on to see who are these people he has that are representing him and what they may represent. I have here a particular picture with three mounted police or three Newfoundland police in it and one man lying on the ground and the others all standing around like a bunch of wolves in anticipation. It may not be brutality but it looks like an unfair fight. I do not think the poor guy on the ground is going to get the best of it. Another picture shows Canada's Royal Canadian Mounted Police marching along swinging clubs that appear to me to be about two and a half feet long. This does not appear to be the type of thing that produces peace on a picket line. It is brought to my attention that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have only riding crops. I have on the order paper a question that has been there for months, asking the minister for the specifications of these night sticks. I understand they are made out

[Mr. Peters.]

of steel tubing. They weigh something like two and a half pounds, according to my information. If the minister says this is not right, let him produce one. I should like to see one and I should like him to answer the question that I have on the order paper if he thinks this is not correct. It appears to me that this is what these clubs are.

I think there are other things that we should consider in the province of Newfoundland. It is my information that when this province decided to join the rest of Canada they brought along part of their police force. I understand that this police force comprised what they called the Newfoundland rangers and that this group was headed up by a man who is now a member of the mounted police and who is an inspector of that police force in this particular area. It is also my information that this man was trained in India in the days of the colonial empire; that he was trained in the handling of men under colonial conditions in India; that he came to Newfoundland to head up this particular police force and ran it in a manner that we would not consider to be in keeping with the traditions of the R.C.M.P., from what I know it to be in Ontario. A number of these gentlemen who were brought into the R.C.M.P. I understand were given little or no training in the methods of operation of the R.C.M.P. Those are the people who are giving direction to some of the young people who are enlisting in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and are going in to serve and do duty in that province. Mr. Chairman, I shall be greatly surprised if some of these young R.C.M.P. have not resigned because of the brutality that has been practised in the strikes that have taken place in that province.

It has been said by the Minister of Justice that these police are by contract under the authority of the attorney general of Newfoundland. I ask you, Mr. Chairman whether it is fair and reasonable to put them under a man who the Parliamentary Guide points out is the Hon. Leslie Roy Curtis. This man is not a disinterested party in seeing that justice is obtained in this particular case. As everyone knows, there are two big companies in the labour dispute in Newfoundland. One of them is Bowaters; the other is Anglo-American Pulp and Paper Company.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on question of privilege. This matter has been raised previously in the house. Mr. Curtis, as attorney general formerly served on the board of Bowaters because the province had an interest in the company. He no longer serves on the board and has not been on the board since they paid off their obligations and he has no connection whatsoever