

dian Mounted Police have deteriorated from their earlier standards. As to the character of the men at present in the force Colonel Wood stated that under present conditions it had been possible to procure a type of men "superior to anything we have had in the force for the past thirty or forty years." And he added, "I have lived in barracks all my life." Several thousand applications are received each year and only a small quota is selected twice a year. A written examination is required and an investigation into the character of each applicant is conducted. Many members of the force, both officers and men, appeared before us and the impression made upon us does not bear out the criticism levelled at the present force.

We are of the opinion that Colonel Wood during all the time the strikers were in Saskatchewan acted with care and moderation, always of course bearing in mind the orders from his superior officer which he was bound to obey. We think also that the members of the force as a whole acted with courage and marked restraint during the riot and this notwithstanding the fact that they were repeatedly engaged in repelling attacks which were characterized by viciousness, brutality and a disregard for human life.

And at page 311:

We think it may be said, to put it mildly, that the men from the camps were most unfortunate in placing their cause in the hands of such leadership. The evidence indicates that a percentage of the men were lawless and dangerous. On the other hand we have reason to believe that the majority of them were of a different type and call for sympathetic consideration. The leaders, however, gave the whole movement a colour and character which condemned it from its inception and which caused it to be branded as dangerous by those in authority, who are responsible for the preservation of the peace, order and good government of the country.

All I have to say is that we must consider with justice and fairness, but with a little sympathy, the positions of those who are placed in offices of responsibility in times of trouble and difficulty like the occasion of the spring of 1935, and we must do our best to strengthen the hands of those who have, after all, to maintain peace and order in Canada. On the whole I do not think the evidence as given in the investigation carried out at Regina, and the report which was presented by impartial commissioners, members of the high court of justice in Saskatchewan—

Mr. BENNETT: There was one county court judge.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Yes; there was one county court judge. I do not think the country has to be humiliated in any way by the part played by those who had to take responsibility at that time.

Mr. BENNETT: I deprecate very greatly the province undertaking to inquire into the conduct of federal affairs. This is a new

precedent in the constitutional history of Canada. But it was done, and I can only point out that there was not continuity of government, when the commission was sitting, as between the dates of the events. I was not asked to be heard. The former Minister of Justice was not asked to be heard. We were not represented either in person or by counsel. I was told I was to be asked to attend. I was not asked. The attempt made to indicate that members of a government undertook to direct proceedings with respect to what happened at Regina, a long distance away from Ottawa, is entirely unwarranted.

But the principle of a province appointing a commission to investigate the conduct of the federal government is a dangerous precedent and will in the end, in my judgment, create great difficulty in the operation of our constitutional system. I have only to point out that a few days ago a man was killed in British Columbia, and the prisoner was sent up for trial. He was charged with murder, in the first instance, but the charge was reduced to manslaughter, and when the case came up for trial the attorney general discontinued it. I shall just read this statement from a Vancouver newspaper and ask the Minister of Justice whether he thinks we should not appoint a commission to investigate this matter. The article reads:

New Westminster, May 14.—A stay of proceedings in the charge of manslaughter against Louise Rosse resulting from the death of R. A. Hanna after a drinking party and brawl in a Port Coquitlam hotel last month was requested by H. J. Sullivan, crown counsel, in assize court to-day. Chief Justice Morrison granted the stay and freed Rosse, who has been awaiting trial on \$15,000 bail. Rosse and Gordon Wismer, his counsel, appeared in court. Mr. Sullivan then announced that the Attorney General had authorized him to apply for stay of proceedings.

At the preliminary hearing evidence was given that Hanna, well known Maple Ridge resident and oil agent, had died of hemorrhage of the brain after being struck in a fight by Rosse, hotelkeeper, following a card game quarrel.

And that man has never been tried before a jury of the people. There has been no investigation, except before a magistrate, and yet there is no means, except by the appointment of a royal commission, to investigate as to how the man's life was taken.

Mr. REID: What date?

Mr. BENNETT: The article is dated May 14.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Is that all the information my right hon. friend has about the case, namely, what he has obtained from the New Westminster paper?