

Mr. GUTHRIE: I am not objecting on that ground. When I read the article it struck me that it was a very improper one to appear in any newspaper—it is not only in the Ottawa Journal; a very similar article appears in the Ottawa Citizen also. If it is only a newspaper reporter's forecast of what a committee is going to report, I do not imagine that anyone can take very serious objection to it, and if the newspaper reporter has made a correct guess I do not think anybody can take very serious objection. But if it is based on information handed out by a member of the committee, then I think serious objection can be taken, and I shall certainly draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the matter at the very earliest opportunity.

Mr. W. G. ERNST (Queens-Lunenburg): As a member of the committee I take the opportunity just to say a word. I do not think I shall be committing any breach of confidence when I say that the article in question was brought to the attention of the committee this afternoon and the committee were unanimous in stating that no member of the committee had given such information to the press. In the words of a former prime minister, it is at best an adventurous prognostication.

SUPPLY

The committee resuming:

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Before the item carries—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stirling): The item is carried.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I will answer the question if I can, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I presume that most of the members of the preventive service in Manitoba were absorbed into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Practically all of them.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I have in mind a man getting, say, from \$1,700 to \$1,800 a year. How would the change affect his salary?

Mr. GUTHRIE: A man with \$1,700 a year would probably lose about \$300 a year. He will be paid now according to the police rates.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I assume the staff has been cut generally. Suppose a man in the preventive service on that ground alone was not absorbed into the mounted police. That service has been cut to a certain extent, I suppose?

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. GUTHRIE: What has been cut?

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The preventive staff. They have not all been absorbed?

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, but in Manitoba I believe practically all have been.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Suppose a man who was in the preventive service was not absorbed when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police took over the service—a man whose record is good but who has passed the age limit for appointment to—the civil service; is there any provision under which the age limit may be waived?

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, there is no provision other than that they are entitled to draw out the gratuity that has accumulated during their service.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

To provide for expenses connected with the administration of Indian affairs, including salaries, supplies, relief, medical attendance, hospitalization, dwellings, agricultural activities, surveys, roads, bridges, irrigation, dyking, education, etc., and a grant of \$100,000 approved by parliament in the session of 1926-27, \$8,873,000.

Mr. DONNELLY: The last time this item was under discussion I asked the minister some questions in connection with the greater production farm at Regina. At that time he told me the farm had been handed over to some individual or individuals to be cared for. Can the minister tell us the size of the farm, the amount of land under cultivation, whether the farm has been rented, or on what terms it has been handed over?

Hon. T. G. MURPHY (Superintendent General of Indian Affairs): Mr. Chairman, I have not the accurate information as to the number of acres, nor have I a copy of the agreement or arrangement made with the former manager of the farm. The farm was rather large, consisting of several hundred acres. The arrangement is that it will be taken over this year on a share of crop basis, but other than that I cannot give details of the arrangement.

Mr. DONNELLY: I have asked for production of papers, and I should have liked to have the information before the item passed. I think I should have had it before this item was called.

Mr. MURPHY: The hon. member asked a question the other night; I gave my answer, and he took no exception. Had he asked for