

Mr. PROBE: They took the kilts away from our soldiers.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Yes, and I am sorry they did not put them on some others. While the kilts may have detracted from the appearance of some because of their natural physical disabilities, they added to the appearance of others.

The mounted police are definitely underpaid for the work they are doing and the responsibilities they must assume. I had the privilege of visiting the headquarters of the F.B.I. in Washington, and I know something of the work they are doing and the class of man and the educational qualifications they require. Those men are paid according to the work they are doing and I think we should pay our mounted police in the same way.

The Minister of Justice should consider the young men who want to take up this work. I understand that they cannot get married until they have attained a certain salary and years of service. Some members of parliament get a certain amount, while others are ministers in the cabinet and receive greater amounts, and yet they are still single. I am not referring to any particular individual. I want to repeat that I do not think the department is doing its duty to these people who provide the best safeguards we have, as was demonstrated not so many months ago right in this parliament and throughout Canada.

Mr. SKEY: I want to endorse what the hon. member for Fraser Valley has just said, not only with reference to shorter tours of duty but with reference to the pay they should receive. I happened to mention to a distinguished and able member of the press gallery that I intended to advocate higher pay for the members of this estimable force and he turned to me with a rather cynical look and said, "You know, that is nothing but an annual parade." With that, my hopes fell. "An annual parade", he said, "that takes place every year at this time." I am a new member, Mr. Chairman; this is my first year in the house and this information made me feel rather sick at heart.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Would the hon. member allow me to put a little balm on his sick heart by saying that the first-class constable receives \$2.75 a day; but also, in addition to that, seventy-five cents for war duties, and \$2.25 for living allowance; making in all \$5.75 a day for 365 days, which amounts to \$2,098.75. I am not boasting about it, but I wish to point out that when his pay is referred to as \$2.75 a day a lot is being left

out. This is the third year war duties supplements are being paid.

Mr. GRAYDON: It should be made permanent.

Mr. PROBE: What does a single constable get?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: A single constable gets the same pay, \$2.75, plus seventy-five cents a day, but his living allowance is \$1.50 a day instead of \$2.25.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: What would he get in a shipyard?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: He might get a higher wage in a shipyard, but he would not have the feeling of performing for the country the service that this corps feels that it is performing. There are no men conscripted for this corps. They join it because they wish to serve their country in that capacity, because of the prestige they have in the community and because of the pension provisions, which are such that I have not asked to have them revised. If they were revised, there are certain dispositions in the act which I am afraid I would lose.

Mr. SKEY: I am willing to bow to what the minister says with regard to the rates of pay of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force. But I would ask him now if he really does not feel that these men should be put on a permanent and guaranteed basic rate of pay instead of having these unreliable bonuses for war duty, et cetera. I do not think there is a decent man or woman in Canada who is not proud of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and of the reputation it has won throughout the world. Surely we can guarantee them a decent basic rate of pay, and put them on a permanent basis at reasonable rates.

The minister has mentioned pensions. There is a subject which I believe is very close to the hearts of these men. Take the case of an ordinary constable killed on duty. Even if he dies in the service of his country, his widow, unless he has signed the pension agreement of 1934, I think it was, does not receive any guaranteed pension. Cannot these men be put on the same basis as the armed forces of the country?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: They could, and if it were felt that it would be a good thing that that should be done it would be accepted at once by treasury board. But I have been holding out against it.

Mr. SKEY: Would the minister tell the committee why?