

to take special courses in various types of education, physical training, drill, history of the force, first aid and so on. They must be expert shots, and take revolver practice. They must be students of criminal law and must understand ballistics. They must understand the chemistry of blood stains. We can scarcely appreciate the type of service these men are required to render.

In the last year and a half I have learned something of their work in connection with the very important anti-sabotage service they are rendering to our country. We learned from the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services that in the first fourteen months of the war, 3,500 vessels left Canadian ports, and that most of them left from ports on the Atlantic coast. Those vessels are in operation to carry food supplies and munitions, and to keep the mother country filled with supplies in her time of need. Each of those vessels had to be carefully checked and inspected by the marine branch of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in order to avert the possibility of those terrific disasters at sea, such as occurred in the last war. Some fifteen months ago I placed on record what happened to shipping out of United States ports. I explained how bombs were planted, chemicals placed in holds, and I said that 103 vessels which in two years had left United States Atlantic ports were either blown up or had experienced incendiary fires started at sea. Those disasters lessened by millions of tons the cargoes intended for Great Britain at the time of the last war.

Our mounted police have done a wonderful job, not only on both ocean coast-lines, but throughout the country. I am not going to give a detailed account of their services, because it would be inappropriate to-night to do so. But let me give some figures: The ice man, the man who wears the white coat and fills the ice-bucket in my room in the House of Commons, receives \$4 a day. In the mines the mucker or the surface man receives, according to official figures, a minimum of \$4.24 a day. That is the amount paid to those surface and underground men who are performing the cheapest form of labour in connection with mining. Drill runners receive \$5.25 a day. It is true that out of that amount they pay approximately \$1 to \$1.25 a day for board. The average pay our Canadian mines dispense to workers is \$5.25 a day. At the moment I am not decrying the amount we pay the ice-man who distributes the ice to the rooms in the House of Commons. Messengers in the house, faithful fellows, receive \$4 to \$4.50 a day. The protective guards at our main door receive \$4, \$4.50 and \$5 a day.

[Mr. Slaght.]

Yet we pay those men who work early and late, who leave their homes in the mornings, and whose wives and families do not know whether or not they will return—we pay those men who are engaged in one of the most dangerous and important services \$1.75 and \$2.25 a day, with a living allowance of \$1.60. That, mind you, is the most they can earn in the first seven years of their employment.

I cannot too strongly urge upon this committee the necessity of correcting that grave injustice. Were I to take time to make comparisons, I could give figures for munition factories and shell factories. The shell factory in my own constituency of Parry Sound produces \$16,000,000 worth of cordite and TNT for the British government in one year. The schedule of pay the workers in that plant receive makes the pay of this great protective and anti-sabotage service look miserable and small.

Please let us not permit an opportunity of this kind to pass without from every quarter of the house adding our voices, so that the minister's hands may be strengthened. I have had some conversation with him, and I know he feels that the pay is entirely inadequate. The commissioner, who is here to-night, is one to whom the committee owes a great debt of gratitude, because of the perilous and tremendous load he has carried since war broke out. He has taken the responsibility for matters connected with internment. Why, if four or five of these men slipped up on their jobs and a crackpot were given the opportunity, great damage might be done by destructive bombs. I shall not mention places, because we do not do that in war time. Any slip-up on the part of these men might prove costly. At the time of the last war the United States suffered a bath of blood, and to some extent they are having the same experience to-day. Any error in judgment, or any tendency to sleep while on duty might have the effect overnight of paralyzing the war industry of Ontario. Yet we are paying \$1.75 and \$2.25 to the men charged with that responsibility!

I do not wish to show heat. But I would hope that every hon. member will not permit this occasion to pass without making it known to the minister that we in the House of Commons, more than any other people in Canada, desire to remedy a situation which, unless remedied, will be an everlasting disgrace to our country.

Mr. ADAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like very much to support the observations of the hon. member for Essex East and the hon. member for Parry Sound. One cannot possibly appreciate the preventive service afforded this