

anxious to organize properly our manpower, we should not have such a large number of men insufficiently or not completely employed. It is common knowledge in the West—confirmed, I understand, by the Prime Minister—that Commissioner Perry some months ago became very much impressed with the idea that there might be certain perils at our door, and that the men under him should be available for the purpose of meeting that alleged danger; that they should not be occupied with ordinary police work out on the prairie. I am not in a position to criticise Mr. Perry; his judgment in a matter of this kind should be a great deal more valuable than mine. But it is always possible for Mr. Perry or some one else to get a one-sided view of his life's work. Mr. Perry may get an exaggerated idea of the military side, and unconsciously, and with the best conscience in the world, get away from the police side of his duty; and it is not impossible that Mr. Perry has got a little extra enthusiasm about the military side, and might be better pleased if he had a little army of his own as distinguished from a police force. He is, however, doing splendid work and is proving a very efficient head of that service. I know that because I am close to him geographically and have had considerable opportunity of judging of his work. The present condition of affairs would not be satisfactory to the country if the people knew everything about it. I do not bring this matter up in a contentious way, but so that the Government may find a solution for it. I know those men would be happier if they were of more use to the country. Many of them want to go overseas and fight for their country. Since the United States has come into the war and is organized for protective purposes, the danger that Mr. Perry saw, that is, the probability of anything like organized hostilities against Canada from the country to the south of us, is reduced to a minimum and almost entirely eliminated.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Do the Mounted Police do any patrolling now?

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. KNOWLES: I think they do some patrolling, but it is a mere bagatelle as compared with the work they did in the early days.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: In my province they do considerable work.

Mr. KNOWLES: But not so much as before. There are some in Moosejaw, but I

do not know what they have to do there. There is certainly no country to patrol. There are no possible dangers there.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: How many mounted policemen are there in Moosejaw?

Mr. KNOWLES: I really could not say.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: Some of them have been taken away from my province.

Mr. KNOWLES: I see them on the street pretty often, and I know the officer in charge of them. He is there all the time; he has not been moved. My belief is that there are just as many of them there now as there were before. If they have been sent elsewhere, it is reasonable that we should have that information from the Government. Since the United States have come into the war, there is no need of patrol work, certainly not more than there was on the 1st of December last, and, at that time, we were able to get along with a limited number of men we had set aside. The Government should take advantage of this large body of man-power. If there is no police work for them to do, why not let the men have their ardent wish gratified, that is, let as many of them as can be spared go overseas?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend has perhaps not an adequate realization of the apprehensions that were entertained about a year ago, not alone by Commissioner Perry, but by very important persons in the western provinces. The representations which were submitted to me from time to time and which were of sufficiently grave character to justify some action, were placed before Commissioner Perry who was brought down here and who was in consultation with the military authorities. Pretty careful arrangements were made. The whole question was discussed in every aspect, and my hon. friend will recollect that, at that time, we could not foresee that the United States would enter into the war in April of this year. I was in this position with regard to the matter—and I hope my hon. friend will appreciate my position—that if I disregarded the very grave warnings which came to me from important persons, and if anything occurred in the nature of a raid, the character of which would be exaggerated throughout the world and would produce a great deal of apprehension amongst our people, besides the loss and damage that might result, I could hardly justify myself nor could the commissioner justify himself before the House and the country. The matter was taken into the most attentive and careful con-