

Supply—Justice

Mr. Castleden: If an increase were to be granted in the pensions paid to civil servants would these men come under it?

Mr. Fulton: No, Mr. Chairman. It would require a change in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act to take care of these pension cases.

Mr. Castleden: Would this in any way affect their treatment under the Old Age Security Act?

Mr. Fulton: No, the pensions of the force are not in any way related to payments received under the Old Age Security Act nor, at the present time, when payments are made to them under that act as of right, are their old age pensions reduced by the amount of such police pension payments.

Mr. Castleden: I do not suppose there are too many of these cases but surely pensions of \$432, \$511 or even \$620 a year are in the light of the present cost of living much below what should be available to men who served as long as these men served in the mounted police in those early days.

Mr. Fulton: They seem very inadequate.

Mr. Broome: Mr. Chairman, I should like to raise the question of men who served in the R.C.M.P. during the first world war. I believe that in 1942 the act was changed so that members of the R.C.M.P. came under veterans allowance, but that act did not go back to cover the men who served in the first world war. These men are in an invidious position as compared with the veterans in the force who served in the R.C.M.P. during the second world war.

The other point I make, which I mentioned previously, is that the extremely large increases which were given to members of the R.C.M.P. because their wages had lagged behind, and which took place from 1947 onward, made the position of the men who retired earlier than 1947 equivalent to retiring on about half the pension upon which they would have retired had they served another five or six years. There is a definite injustice being done to the men who retired prior to 1947 and I think also that an injustice is being done to those veterans of the R.C.M.P. who were injured during the course of their duty in the first world war.

Mr. Fulton: I think, Mr. Chairman, that what the hon. member has in mind are cases of what I might call an anomalous character under part 3 which do require adjustment. We hope to deal with the great majority of these cases when we are able to get on with the revision of the act.

[Mr. Fulton.]

Mr. McIvor: Mr. Chairman, does that mean that the pensions of these former members of the R.C.M.P. will be increased and brought up to what they should be?

Mr. Fulton: That is the objective.

Mr. McIvor: Thank you.

Mr. Fisher: When the chairman broke off our discussions at five o'clock the minister made a brief, snappy political comment which I did not quite get, in connection with the Norman case and I wonder if he would repeat it so that it should be on the record.

The second point is that I directed a question to him regarding section—

The Chairman: That item has been passed. We cannot discuss it further.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): There is a supplementary item on administration still to be discussed, and my hon. friend can ask his question then.

Item agreed to.

Headquarters administration, national police services and training establishments—

739. Administration, operation and maintenance—further amount required, \$66,000.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is the item on administration in the supplementaries.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Chairman, it is unnecessary for me to repeat the first question. The second one is: has there been any prosecution under section 37, subsection 2 of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act?

Mr. Fulton: To the best recollection of myself and the officials sitting in front of me, the answer to the second question is no. The answer to the first question is, I believe, on the record and will stand there to speak for itself.

Mr. Castleden: I should like to raise a question regarding mounted police who are injured in the performance of their duties. I am thinking of a man who was severely frostbitten in the Northwest Territories a few years ago. Would the minister inform me what is the standard upon which the compensation to such persons is based.

Mr. Fulton: At the present time disability pensions and the continuance of such pensions to survivor, widows and so on is governed by the provisions of the Pensions Act applicable to veterans.

Mr. Christian: I should like to raise a question in regard to the matter of criminal investigation in serious cases, particularly capital cases. I know that in a number of small communities in British Columbia there are often stationed in R.C.M.P. offices one or more R.C.M.P. officers. In many cases these