

in some sort of Dale Carnegie course amongst the younger members of the police force on how to influence people and use tact and diplomacy in the enforcement of the law, in that way we could overcome much of the difficulty and the aggravated and upset feelings that many honest and upright citizens in the community have with respect to the R.C.M. Police or certain members of it.

Mr. Broome: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw one item to the minister's attention; it may be covered in other legislation but I have not been able to determine that. I refer to the case of men who enlisted with the R.C.M.P. in the first world war as reinforcements to overseas units. In the particular case I am referring to a man while training at Regina was thrown from a horse and suffered shoulder injuries, and was later discharged from the R.C.M.P. Later on he enlisted in an army unit but was again discharged as medically unfit.

People in his position find that the revisions of the R.C.M. Police Act have not taken care of them, although they did with regard to the second world war. The provisions were not extended back far enough to take care of people who suffered this type of injury in the first world war, and this man is precluded from receiving medical treatment at military hospitals because he has not had service. Yet his injury took place while he was training with the R.C.M.P. on the basis of going overseas.

My question to the minister is this. Is there any provision in the act as it is being amended, either in the pensions act or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, which will take care of cases such as this?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, first with reference to the remarks made by the hon. member for Skeena, he asked me whether there was any definite policy of encouragement given with regard to suggestions made by members of the force in connection with problems they encounter in administering or enforcing the law. As I indicated when I rose to suggest that perhaps this was not strictly in order on these estimates, I do appreciate that there are always some laws which are not greeted with absolute favour by various segments of the population, and this does bring difficulties in enforcement.

The responsibility of an individual member as a policeman is not to question the propriety or wisdom of the law, but to discharge his duty of enforcing it with tact and diplomacy. We are aware that the liquor laws, particularly, are the subject of criticism by the Indian population and by others interested in their behalf, and I am very hopeful that the

joint parliamentary committee, now sitting, may make some wise and constructive suggestions in that regard.

It is the policy of the force to encourage suggestions from its members, and there are various channels and means by which this can be done. There are the regular annual inspections by personnel officers, in the course of which or in the preparation for which every member is interviewed every year, and either the personal problems or the suggestions he may have with respect to difficulties he has encountered in connection with the discharge of his duties as a member of the force may be brought up by him, and should be brought up by him, with the personnel officers in the course of the annual inspection. Section n.c.o.'s are encouraged to make reports, not only factual reports as to what has gone on but reports containing recommendations or suggestions with respect to the problems they have encountered in the course of administering their sections. It is also open to any member to make recommendations whenever amendments to such laws as the liquor laws might be up for discussion. I would also point out that the R.C.M.P. are part of the suggestion award system organized by the civil service, and that it is open to a member to make any specific suggestion in that way at any time he feels inclined to do so.

With regard to the other comments of the hon. member, that members of the force should at all times be encouraged to exercise tact and diplomacy in the enforcement of the law, this is something which forms a definite part of the training they receive at the police training institutions here and in Regina. We do not claim to be able to produce perfection, but we do claim to be able to set a high standard and to place a great deal of emphasis upon the fact that every police constable in the discharge of his duties has the duty to maintain the Queen's peace; that he is not there to adopt an attitude, in any sense, of being somebody superior to the ordinary citizen of the country. He is there primarily to protect the citizens of the country from those who seek to break the laws of the country, and it is instilled into him that no person is guilty until he is proved to be so and that it is not his job to make a decision as to the guilt or innocence of anyone he may be investigating. That is for the courts of the land to decide.

In all these ways we try to impress upon the constable his proper role, and I think it is fair to claim that we achieve a satisfactory degree of success. But no system can produce perfection, and there are errors made by individual constables, as there always will be errors made by human beings; but as far as