

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) evidently does not know anything of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I do not know where he gets his information. It is my privilege to have associated with this body of men for forty-five years, and during the time I have lived in their headquarters in Regina I have met every commissioner, and I can say that I have never come across finer men. The present commissioner's opinions and his citizenship are as satisfactory to me to-day as are the opinions of the *Western Producer*. I would not read that paper anyway. Let me remind the hon. gentleman that the majority governs in Canada, and not the minority whose opinions he voices. He does not seem to get that into his head.

During the time I have known the mounted police I have met dozens of superintendents and hundreds of constables, having been associated with them not only at headquarters but in detachment camps. I therefore know something about the men who enforce the law, and I can say that they administer it impartially, justly, wisely and well. Anyone who has had the experience my hon. friend has mentioned deserves what he gets.

There are two opinions with regard to the force: one opinion is that of ninety-five per cent of our people, and we respect and honour that majority; the other opinion is that of the five per cent who make up the thieves, scoundrels, skunks and villains, and they do not like the force. I would get into better company if I were the hon. gentleman; let him come across and sit with us. We recognize the fact that the majority of our people rule and make the laws that govern Canada.

Let me take you back to the year 1911. I happened to be the Conservative candidate in Regina against the Hon. Mr. Martin, and he licked me by one thousand. Since then we have been personal friends, and no better man than he could be found in Canada. Well, when the Conservatives came into power the patronage fell to me—and patronage was patronage in those days. It was not like the Civil Service Commission; we did business in a businesslike way. Shortly afterwards a delegation came to my office from the new village of Ceylon, and told me they wanted to get a detachment of mounted police in the town. It occurred to me that perhaps the delegation wanted extra business that would result from having a detachment there. I told them that, of course, the force was not maintained for commercial purposes, and I asked what they wanted a detachment for.

They told me they had a nest of very bad men in the town, men who had come across from Montana and established themselves there. They were rustlers of every kind, and the people of the town did not like the look of them. They were the worst type of men and the delegation wanted a detachment to drive them out. The women were afraid to go out at night. I called in the commissioner, whom I knew every well, and repeated what the delegation had told me. He said he would look into the matter and do whatever he thought was necessary. When the commissioner made that statement I knew that whatever was necessary would be done, and so I forgot all about the matter. A month or so afterwards the leader of the delegation came back to my office and said that he wanted to thank me for the police protection I had been instrumental in providing. I asked him whether the detachment had gone down. He said in reply, "I don't know what you call a detachment, but they sent down one man and he cleaned up the place." I was astonished; I asked what he had done. What had happened? This man then told me: "Well, as soon as that bunch of thieves and skunks and scoundrels got sight of a redcoat they took to their heels and beat it back to Montana. They did not stop to gather up their belongings but just cleared out, and we have never heard of them since." I asked whether one man had done all that? Did he have any gun? No; he just walked into the place and these scoundrels from Montana simply cleared out. They knew that if they dared to interfere with that one man in the scarlet coat he would settle them singlehanded or, if the whole bunch got the best of him, then the full force of the British Empire would be there to vindicate British authority.

I say to my hon. friend that the majority of the people in this country are determined that authority and justice shall prevail. If the hon. gentleman does not like British justice and authority, then he had better continue to talk as he has been talking.

Mr. ILSLEY: Am I correct in understanding that out of about 600 members of the preventive force, 350 have been taken over by the mounted police?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Have or will be.

Mr. ILSLEY: Could the minister advise the committee as to the basis of selection?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The selection is made by the Department of National Revenue accord-