

the commissioner to these posts is of considerable value to the morale of the men who serve in those outlying districts.

Mr. MERRITT: I have no doubt of that. I wondered, though, if this item provides for the acquisition of new aircraft, in addition to the five the minister has mentioned or whether it is to pay for those five, or what expansion is proposed.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: There is \$45,000 for one Norseman, and \$250,000 for two Douglas Dakota C-47's, at \$125,000 each.

Mr. COCKERAM: I should like an explanation of the item for allowances, including billeting, messing and provisions. In the three branches of the service there is for this purpose a total of something like \$361,000. Why is that amount spent on messing in addition to pay and allowances?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: That is the general living allowance at the normal rate for men living out of barracks.

Mr. COCKERAM: Do they run any messes with that?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Not in the aviation branch. I do not know why it is described in this way, but I am informed that this is paid at the established rate for men living out of barracks.

Item agreed to.

Pensions and other benefits—

353. To compensate members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for injuries received in the performance of duty, \$12,750.

Mr. LENNARD: It is my understanding that when, after years of service, a member of the mounted police is pensioned, after his death none of that pension is continued to his widow during the remainder of her lifetime. When a member of the permanent force is retired on allowances, after he dies his widow gets fifty per cent of the pension for the remainder of her lifetime. It seems to me that this is very unfair, and I would certainly like a complete explanation as to the reason for this difference.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: There was established in 1934 by chapter 40 of the statutes of that year a scheme for the pension of widows and dependents. That is part VI of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, and it has been in operation since that year.

Mr. LENNARD: Then my information was wrong, was it?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Well, I would have to qualify my acquiescence in that remark; it

was partly wrong. There are those who since 1934 have chosen to come under part VI of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act and make contributions to a fund set up under that part. Quite a large number of the older members did not choose to come under that part and make the contributions required in order to get the benefit of it.

Mr. LENNARD: How would those contributions compare with those made by men in the permanent force?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The contribution is five per cent, as it is under the Civil Service Act, and schedules were set up showing the back payments which would be required for those who did not commence to contribute when they entered the service.

Mr. LENNARD: It is the same, then, for one who takes advantage of it, as the civil service superannuation?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I am informed that it is, that it is modeled on the civil service superannuation scheme.

Mr. McKAY: We are discussing item 353, I believe?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes.

Mr. McKAY: It has nothing to do with pensions, as I understand it.

Mr. LENNARD: Then where would you bring up any question concerning pensions?

Mr. McKAY: Under the next item.

Mr. LENNARD: Read that one.

Mr. McKAY: I am going to. Upon what basis are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police compensated for injuries? I think that properly comes under this item. It seems to me that this appropriation is very small. Is this in the nature of a workmen's compensation, or is it straight pension, and who determines the amounts?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The amount is determined by the officers of the force, but they submit the claims for recommendation to the pension board of the Department of Veterans Affairs. They submit a statement of the facts and get a recommendation as to what would be the assessment made by the pension board if it came under the Pension Act.

Mr. McKAY: The same as for a military pension?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: Yes.

Mr. HARKNESS: When we were discussing the mounted police several days ago only one of the several questions I asked was not