

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): For a constable first class, the rate of pay is from \$2 to \$2.25 per diem, with a living allowance of \$1.60; for a constable second class, the pay is \$1.75 per diem with the same living allowance, and for a constable third class, \$1.50 per diem, with the same living allowance.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): How are the different classes made up?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): According to length of service, the number of years in the force.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Out of their living allowance do they have to pay the rent for their houses?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Yes.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): At \$2 a day their pay would amount to only about \$60 a month.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Yes.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I know of some constables who have to pay \$30 or \$35 a month in rent alone. If they get only \$60 or \$70 a month in wages they certainly would not have enough left to permit them to live decently and respectably. That is a very low wage.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I do not object at all to the remarks of my hon. friend, more particularly because I have recommended an increase, and that recommendation is now before the treasury board. As a matter of fact, during the last war the police were paid a bonus because of the higher cost of living. We must admit that these constables, who are first-class men in every way and who are risking their lives almost daily, are not being paid rates comparable with those paid in other services and other directions. I may say that if the committee shares my views about this, it will help me with the treasury board.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I have had an opportunity of visiting three of these mounted policemen, and they are living under conditions right next to relief. I have been in some of their houses; I have discussed with them the wages they are paid and the work they have to do. They work long hours; sometimes they are on the road all night long. I understand, further, that they do not even receive their car expenses; I believe they are given so much a day for the use of the car, and that if they have to take long trips they are out of pocket. I do not think that is a fair deal for these people, particularly in war time when they are taking on some very hard work. I am

glad to hear that the minister is contemplating giving them a little assistance.

Mr. MARTIN: In view of what the minister has just said, I might add a word of support. I know that in one important community in Ontario the mounted police receive less than the city police; and though I am not too definite about this, my impression is that they receive less, certainly in the lower brackets, than the Ontario provincial police. If that is the situation, I think we will all agree that the importance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is such that the salary of an officer of that force certainly should not be less than that of a city policeman, and should at least equal that of a provincial policeman.

I know of at least three officers, one of whom was a sergeant in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, but who left the service because of inadequacy of pay. He has been taken over by a large industrial plant to work in connection with its protective service. I am sure the commissioner would be one of the first to admit that on that account the force has lost a valuable officer. I do not think the inadequacy of pay of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police can go without a protest.

Mr. SLAGHT: It is my view that the items now under discussion are of great importance. In answer to a query we have just heard the minister place on record the pay the constables in the force receive and, if I am not mistaken, the figures he gave were the maximum under the present schedule that a constable may receive for the first seven years of his service, if he is not promoted.

The great bulk of the men in this force are under the schedule of pay the minister has just recited, namely \$2 to \$2.25 per day, with an allowance of \$1.60 for living. Then there is another class at \$1.75, with a similar living allowance. I suggest to the committee that we should add our voices in the strongest possible manner to the application the minister has told us he is making to the treasury board for a substantial increase in these amounts. Whether or not our voices reach as far as the treasury board, I am not able to inform the committee. But if we look at the present remuneration in other fields, we must conclude that the pay offered in this instance is a disgrace. I find fault with nobody, because these figures have prevailed for the last twenty years, under various governments.

The figures just mentioned are a disgrace to offer to the men who serve in that force. In order to enter it, they are required to be university matriculants. They are required