

Mr. LAPOINTE: I would not like to answer that immediately. I have not gone into the matter at all, because it is not dealt with or referred to in this legislation.

Mr. GOULD: I have before me statements made by one of the police in a certain western province that such licenses are granted, and the people are questioning whether it should be done when the province has placed itself on record as being opposed to it.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The Canada Temperance Act did not prohibit the manufacture of liquor. It prohibits the import and sale of it within the province.

Mr. GOULD: That is the point I am trying to bring out. If each individual in the province received a license for the manufacture of beer, any provincial measure would be of very little use.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is quite another question. I think I am doing as much as I can to remedy what my hon. friend has in mind. He will have to apply to somebody else if he wants more.

Mr. BROWN: British Columbia and Quebec would come under the provisions of this act if they at this or any other time took the same action as has been taken in the prairie provinces?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes. They would have to hold a plebiscite.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Lapointe thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 114, to amend the Canada Temperance Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE ACT AMENDMENT PENSIONS

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) moved that the House go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act by providing that pensions to officers, their widows, and constables granted prior to the seventh day of July, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen, may be readjusted in accordance with the rates of pay for officers and constables provided by the said act as amended prior to and on the seventh day of July, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen, but no such readjustment shall authorize the increase of any payments for pensions that accrued before the passing of the proposed legislation.

Motion agreed to and the House went into committee, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Mr. LAPOINTE: For many years there has been in this parliament a demand for the redress of what was stated to be a very great injustice to old, retired members of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, these men were the pioneers in this work in the Northwest Territories, and their pension upon retirement was very low and not commensurate with their needs, especially when compared with the present scale of pensions given to officers and constables of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Two years ago, and especially last year, I was urged very strongly by almost all members of the House to make this matter a special one and to grant relief to these old men. The present resolution is for that purpose. We propose to give to the old, retired members of the police force an increase of pension equal to that to which they would have been entitled had they retired in 1919. About 90 or 95 men will be affected, and the additional expenditure, which will, of course, decrease as the men disappear, will be \$28,220.12. The present total amount of pension under the old scale is \$31,387.18, and the total under the new scale will be \$59,607.30. As I said, this is to give effect to the wish of the House.

Mr. BROWN: I think the hon. minister is to be congratulated on having brought in this bill. There is no body of men to whom Canada owes more than the old members of the North West Mounted Police. I do not think we always appreciate the work they did in preserving the good name of Canada. We like to remember that lynch law has never been known in Canada, and perhaps these men of the Royal North West Mounted Police did more than any other body of men to preserve us from the lawlessness which sometimes tends to bring about lynch law. There is none of us who have lived on the prairies for the last forty years or more who have not been acquainted at some time or another with some of these men. I remember speaking with Major Walsh on this matter. He said that such a body of men as he took out in the early days were hard to gather together, a body of men to whom Canada owes a great deal. It is perhaps tardy justice that we are rendering them now, and I for one would like to congratulate the minister on having yielded to the pressure, although I am sure it did not require much pressure, for his sympathies were with the men, and having brought in this measure.

Mr. EVANS: I am very glad the government has at last seen fit to do justice by these old mounted policemen. There are not many