

*Royal Canadian Mounted Police*

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I think in all fairness, Mr. Chairman, statements that are absolutely untrue should not be made in that way.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: They have not been challenged yet.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I challenge them now.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Very well; then we find this, that my hon. friend stands as the representative of labour to-day and denies to anyone else the right to say anything in regard to labour.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Not at all; I quite agree that my hon. friend has a perfect right to speak for labour, because labour elected him.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Yes, and if they knew my hon. friend as well as they know me I have no doubt what their selection would be. But I say this: When my hon. friend discusses the aspirations and aims of organized labour throughout Canada he will get no support stronger than the support I will give him, but I do not think he should exclude anyone else who wishes to say a word on that subject. The hon. gentleman says he did not intend to do so; I made a note of his speech, and that was the inference I took from it.

Now I should like to say a word in regard to communism, of which the hon. member made a very poor defence a moment ago. I am not a communist; I do not believe in communism, and the church to which I belong does not believe in communism. That point was called into question by my hon. friend opposite. Now I want to ask my hon. friend if he believes in communism or if he is a communist. Will he be courageous enough to stand up in his place and answer that question? I will resume my seat and give him an opportunity to do so. I pause for an answer.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Does the hon. gentleman really want an answer?

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Certainly.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I will have to take a moment or two to answer that question, if I may be permitted to do so.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacDonald, Cape Breton South): May I point out to the committee that in my opinion this discussion is quite apart from the question under consideration?

[Mr. MacDougall.]

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am very willing to answer if I am given an opportunity.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: All I want is yes or no.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The whole question depends upon—

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Yes or no.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am reminded of the man who asked, "Have you left off beating your wife—yes or no? This is a question of that kind. I may say I do not belong to the communist party.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I did not ask whether you belonged to the communist party; are you a communist—yes or no? The hon. gentleman, who according to himself is the custodian of the rights of labour in this house, was the only man in this parliament who suggested that the unemployed should be conscripted and made to work for a dollar a day. Let any person in this country read the records of this house and it will be found that this statement is absolutely correct.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: In order to keep the record straight I say that this statement is incorrect.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. MacDonald, Cape Breton South): My hon. friend will have an opportunity to reply later.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Let us get back to the question before the committee. My hon. friend takes very serious objection to certain increases in the personnel of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I ask him, or any other member of this house, this question: What do the Royal Canadian Mounted Police do but provide security for the homes of myself and my hon. friend who has just spoken? After all, the law is a danger only to the evildoer; no one need be afraid of the maintenance of law and order. The hon. member some weeks ago criticized the present Minister of Justice because at a certain meeting at Geneva, if I mistake not, he said that we maintained a police force to enforce law and order so that every man, irrespective of whether he was a Labour representative, or a Conservative or a Liberal, might have security in his own home. In regard to the single officers, I would ask the Minister of Justice whether it is fair that the salaries of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who are now doing the work of preventive officers should be reduced from \$1,500 to \$700 a year.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I do not think there is any intention of such a reduction.