

the offenders. And it is surprising, Mr. Speaker, what an amount of legal knowledge these men acquire from having to try these cases in their own courts before sending the offenders before the higher courts. The mounted policemen serve papers, such as jury summonses, small debt summonses, subpoenas, and so on. Sometimes the mounted policeman is made the receiver upon a claim. This duty requires that the man shall not only be a man of good education, but a man of thorough integrity as well. They have charge of the jails in Dawson and Whitehorse. During 1904, 416 prisoners passed through their hands in the Yukon Territory. They also have charge of the insane. This requires almost special knowledge, because in that country there is a larger proportion of insane than in other parts of Canada owing to the strenuousness of the life there. The mounted policemen also carry the mails. I have seen these men turn out with a dog team in the dead of winter to carry his Majesty's mail distances of from 100 to 500 miles. In fact, so varied and so important are the duties of the Northwest Mounted Police in the Yukon, that I do not know how we could have got on without them. They have made it possible for us to live there in peace and quietness. They have protected life and property and have stood practically for everything that is right. It is true that the people have backed them up. Still, had it not been for the police we should undoubtedly have had much more crime in the Yukon than we have had. That the ministers themselves value the services of these men is shown by one incident out of many. Last fall the Department of the Interior saw fit to discharge a number of our mining recorders. These officers were receiving about \$200 or \$225 a month each. At one fell swoop they were removed. I have not a word of criticism to offer on that action; I rather think that there were too many of these officers. But, whom did the government appoint in place of these mining recorders? They took the policemen—regular constables, sergeants and others—and placed them in these offices. And surprising to state, the men whom they put in these offices have given the people first-class satisfaction. So great is that satisfaction that I have in my desk a petition asking that policemen who are now presiding over the affairs of the mining recorders' offices should be left there and no more civilians appointed. I think that is recommendation enough for any force. The policemen are attached to the secret service and do valuable work in that way. In almost every department of life in the Yukon the mounted policeman and his officer has been an invaluable help. I believe that even with the increased allowance the government is now giving men in the Yukon, their remuneration is not sufficient. In section 2 of the Act to amend the Northwest Mounted Police Act passed this session there is the following provision:

Mr. THOMPSON.

The Governor in Council may authorize extra pay and allowances to be paid to members of the force serving in the Yukon Territory, or the unorganized portions of the Northwest Territories.

I hope the Prime Minister under whose direction the force is, will avail himself of this power given in the law and authorize extra pay and allowance to the men serving in the Yukon territory. I may mention that two or three years ago a committee of the United States Senate was delegated to visit the Yukon and Alaska so that they might compare the conditions which existed in both Territories, with instructions to report back to the United States Senate on the conditions existing. These gentlemen came to the Yukon; they were entertained by the people of the Yukon and taken over that territory to some considerable extent. What struck them as being most valuable in the governing of a frontier country, for the administration of justice, for the collection of customs and for everything that tends to advance civilization and preserve order, was the organization and the efficiency of this mounted police force of ours. So great was the impression made upon the minds of that committee of the United States Senate, that in their report, if they did not absolutely advocate the establishment of a similar force in Alaska they recommended it very strongly, and they were good enough to say that our mounted force policed that territory better than any section of the United States is policed by any force in that country. In the district of Alaska the United States had been trying to do the police work by regular soldiers; posts had been established along the Yukon river and along the southeast coast of Alaska making one continuous chain connected by telegraph and cable round the whole district. But these were regular soldiers and they did not understand police work, and the contrast afforded by the mounted police in Canada gave to the Senate committee a very striking illustration of the two methods so that in their report to the United States Senate they were loud in their praises of our mounted police and recommended the establishment of a similar force in Alaska. All Americans who pass back and forth from the Yukon to Alaska are loud in their praises of our police, and in their comparisons they say that the order kept in the Yukon is much superior to the order kept in Alaska, as it ought to be, because we in Canada will not stand for anything but the very best of order even if it is on the very utmost limits of our territory. Let me mention another incident. Last year it became necessary to establish communication between Dawson and the Arctic ocean, some 400 or 500 miles away. There is a sealing station at Herschell Island where, in the absence of customs officials, smuggling was being carried on, and a line of communication had to be established with that