

that the amounts which have been received from the provinces have been placed at the disposal of the Controller of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, but he made his estimate up for each year to ascertain the amount which would be required, and he then deducted from it the amounts which were made available through the subsidies of the provinces. Then he came to Parliament and asked for the balance, whatever it might be. When those subsidies cease to be available for a portion of the year he finds it necessary to come and ask for an additional amount, which, in the first instance, would have been provided or except for the fact that these subsidies were available for the maintenance of the force.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: That is highly irregular.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: I think I have a little knowledge of the transaction in my province. There was an outstanding agreement between this Government and the Provincial Government. Under that agreement the province was to pay a certain sum to the Federal Government for the use of the police and to pay part of their cost of upkeep, etc. That sum of money was deducted from the total cost and this Parliament voted the difference, and what we passed in the main estimates was the difference between the total cost and the sum received from the provinces under the agreement. What we are now voting is that sum, which represented the payments made by the provinces under the agreement, and what the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) says as to our voting the whole sum and then taking the amount received from the provinces into the consolidated revenue fund would, undoubtedly, be the proper course.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Hear, hear.

Mr. R. B. BENNETT: But in practice this Parliament voted only the difference between the total cost and the amount contributed by the provinces.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I understand the explanation, but the practice is not regular. In my time it was not done. This conveys a wrong impression; it conveys the impression that we have been spending \$1,300,000, whereas we have been spending \$1,500,000.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I can assure my right hon. friend that I made no change in the practice. Whether the practice is right or wrong, I think it must have been in

force all along, as I never directed any change.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The change is in the controllership. Is this not to be rectified?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: There is nothing to rectify now, because the system has been changed. I shall ascertain whether or not the practice referred to has been universal ever since the agreement was first made. I am inclined to think that under the Order in Council embodying the agreement between the provinces and the Dominion it was regarded as perfectly proper and regular that the amounts received from the provinces should go directly into the funds available for the Royal Northwest Mounted Police.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Representing an eastern constituency, I should like an explanation why Parliament is assuming a liability that was formerly assumed by the western provinces.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The Commissioner of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, Mr. Perry, strongly recommended that during the war the force should be relieved from the duties which it had hitherto performed—duties of an ordinary police nature—and that its services should be retained for federal purposes. It has been thought expedient to establish a good many patrols that were not formerly necessary and to take other precautions in respect of contingencies for which the police are available. It was upon his report that the negotiations were entered into with the provinces in question and that the present arrangement has been arrived at.

Mr. SINCLAIR: We understand, then, that the Mounted Police are not doing the same provincial work that they formerly did.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: They formerly did all the police work of the Northwest Territories before those territories were incorporated into provinces. They were the only police there at that time. After the provinces were established, I suppose local police forces were established in the cities and towns; nevertheless the Royal Northwest Mounted Police had detachments in all cities and towns and co-operated with the civil authorities whenever required; in fact, they were under obligation to do so. Conditions in that respect have changed a good deal in those provinces during the last ten or twelve years. Further, on account of