

number; I have been asked by the head of the mounted police not to do this because it might hamper his work.

These names and the reasons why the persons should be interned were all classified and submitted to a committee composed of three men. Since the outbreak of war the members of this committee have worked many hours apart from their duties. I refer to Mr. MacNeill, a prominent law officer of the Department of Justice; Mr. Robertson, a counsel in the Department of External Affairs, and Mr. Bavin, a member of the intelligence branch of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The committee passed on all these names. The order which was given to me for signature was prepared from information which had been received from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in all parts of Canada. These men do not talk; they act.

I resented the suggestion that party politics had been played in connection with the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Certain statements were made at the recent convention of the legion in Montreal, but when some of those gentlemen came to see me, in company with the commissioner of the police, it was demonstrated that there had been a misunderstanding.

Mr. SLAGHT: They put it in the press first, though.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I am proud to say that there never will be politics in connection with the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Have there ever been?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I do not think so.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I do not think so either.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): That is why the police have the reputation they have in Canada.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): One of the reasons.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): We want to keep that reputation. It has been hinted that in the exercise of discretion by the Minister of Justice in connection with the release of interned persons, politics might have played a part. I deny that just as strongly as I denied the suggestion that politics have anything to do with the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Only two cases have been mentioned, and questions with regard to them have also been put upon the order paper. In one case, which

was in Saskatchewan, the man was released under special circumstances in December. I was told by my good friend the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) that this man took part in the election which followed. Well, if he did, it did not serve him very well, because I have since ordered his reinternment and he is still in the camp. I have no qualms of conscience as to that case at all. I cannot give to the house the circumstances, but at least one condition of his release was not lived up to, and this circumstance permitted me to order his reinternment.

The other case, which has also been referred to, was in Manitoba.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Before the minister deals with that, can he tell us what was the condition which was not lived up to, by reason of which the minister ordered the man's reinternment?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I would rather tell my hon. friend privately, or it might make a precedent.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is good enough.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I can say that it was something to do with foreign exchange regulations, the changing of money.

As to the other case in Manitoba, there has not been a shadow of politics in it. There again I ordered the man's reinternment.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): My hon. friend cheers. He is happier than I am with regard to this man. I hesitated because I had really nothing upon which to base my order for his reinternment; far from it. The man had the best recommendations possible. But there is public opinion, and I thought we must satisfy public opinion. Even if a man has to suffer perhaps a little unfairly, this is war, and perhaps it is better for him for his own sake to be interned than to be subjected to the attacks, difficulties and troubles which were flooding down upon him. I say this to show to hon. gentlemen that there has not been the slightest political motive in dealing with these two cases. Both men have been reinterned. I do not know that there has been criticism of any other case anywhere in this country.

I wish to make a little more clear something I said some time ago which led to certain comments. I had said that there had been members of parliament who had made representations, and I have seen in the press comments rather unfavourable to any member of parliament on either side of the house making such representations. But I do not