

allowance would be an equitable way of dealing with the matter. Can the minister tell us if this allowance will average anywhere near what a widow receives under the Workmen's Compensation Act in Ontario?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I do not know what the Ontario act would provide, but I know this principle has been recognized in the permanent force and in the mounted police for a very long period of time. In the bill it is stated that the amount payable in respect of each child is \$60 a year, I think, and the widow would get probably \$400 or \$500 in addition.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Apart from the possibility of taking over police work in other provinces is it contemplated that any other functions will be taken over in addition to the preventive service?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Not at the present moment. Some suggestions have been made in regard to the police in attendance in this house, for instance; they are not under the mounted police, but that matter has not been seriously considered.

Mr. SANDERSON: I should like to ask the minister if the strength of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is being kept up by recruits and, if so, how many recruits were taken on last year.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I believe fifty were taken on last autumn, but none have been taken on since, and the commissioner informs me that he will not be able to take on any more recruits before June or July. There is a natural wastage in the force, as there is in all forces of the kind, and the commissioner happened to tell me to-day that it would be June or July before he could take on any more recruits.

Mr. HOWDEN: With respect to these pensions, could the minister tell us what the average retiring allowance of a constable would be?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Somewhere around \$800 or \$900 after twenty years of service.

Mr. HEENAN: I hope that before the minister drafts his bill he will give consideration to this matter, because from the answer he has just given this seems hardly a fair or equitable distribution. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act in Ontario the widow of a man killed receives \$40 a month as long as she lives, while for children up to sixteen years of age there is an additional allowance

of \$120 a year. The minister said the allowance under this act was \$60 a year for children.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I think it is \$60 under this act.

Mr. HEENAN: I think if an officer or constable is killed in the discharge of his duty his dependents should be cared for as well as the dependents of those killed in industry.

Mr. GUTHRIE: This pension fund was formed on an actuarial basis, and the men contribute to the cost of keeping it up. The provision in favour of the widow and children is fixed on the basis of the contribution to the fund. When a man joins the force he knows what he will have to contribute to the fund and the pension he will get after he serves twenty years. If this amendment passes he will also know what his widow and children will get if unfortunately he meets with death during service.

Mr. HEENAN: I am not quarrelling with the system that has obtained up to now. Evidently we have not paid very much attention to these matters, since we have just voted the money each year, but now that we are going to pass an act the very fact that the constables and officers contribute to this fund surely is another reason why their widows and dependents should receive as much as the widows and dependents of men killed in industry.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I think the widow will get as much as \$40 a month.

Mr. EULER: When the preventive force was absorbed by the mounted police I think the salaries of the members of that force were very substantially reduced. I should like to ask the minister whether the pensions of these men are based on their pay as members of the mounted police or on the amount they were receiving under the old organization, or both, with the former higher salary being taken into consideration in the granting of pension?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I will have to ask the commissioner when the bill is brought in. My impression is that some consideration is given to the former higher salaries and that an average is taken, but I am not positive of that. I will give the information definitely.

Mr. CASGRAIN: If we are to understand that these pensions are paid out of the money contributed by the officers and constables, I presume the widow will be entitled to that amount for the rest of her life.