

in the army. If enlistments cannot be secured voluntarily, recourse will be had to the Mobilization Act to secure the necessary men. It was felt that this force should be treated the same as is done in the United Kingdom which has a similar service.

Mr. GILLIS: I should like to deal specifically with this question of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police guards. There are many of these guards across the country, particularly in the seaports, and they are doing an essential work. Most of them are ex-service men from the last war, but many are men who have been discharged from the services during this war. The rates paid are certainly not in keeping with the work they are performing. A supervisor is paid \$2 a day, with an allowance of \$1.60, making his total pay and allowance \$3.60 a day. A married man receives \$1.60 and an allowance of \$1.60, or a total of \$3.20 a day. An unmarried man receives \$1.60 and an allowance of \$1, or a total of \$2.60 a day. The great majority of these men are married, and the cost of living in seaport towns is very high. I understand that the establishment of this force was arranged between the veterans' organizations and representatives of the government, and it was decided that the rates paid would be the same as those paid to constables in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Since that time the police constables have received an increase of 50 cents a day. There is no reason in the world why these men should not receive the same increase.

If the treasury board is not prepared to grant this increase, then these men should come under the cost of living bonus regulations. I know the Royal Canadian Mounted Police commissioner has done everything he can to have an adjustment made, and the Department of Justice has made the necessary representations. What I am finding fault with is the fact that when certain departments bring down recommendations that certain things should be done in the best interests of the department, a few men on the treasury board can refuse to take action. I think members of this house should express their opinion whether we should have a dictatorship behind the scenes in the handling of finances and the curtailing of work which must be performed by the departments. Not only have these men on the treasury board interfered in this case, but they have interfered with the payment of dependents' allowances in connection with the armed forces. When the regular estimates of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley) are up for consideration I shall

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

have some pertinent things to say with respect to that. I should like to hear an expression of opinion, particularly from hon. members from Nova Scotia and the Halifax district. There are perhaps 150 men engaged at that port. They work in all kinds of weather, and they must be keen about doing their job. Yet a few men on the treasury board can interfere with the recommendations of the Department of Justice and the commissioner.

Mr. MAYBANK: This cost of living bonus, which has been mentioned by the hon. member, is causing a good deal of trouble in the district from which I come. I entirely agree with what he said in so far as he was delivering strictures upon the treasury board and its interference with justice to persons who work in one way and another for the people of Canada. The attitude of treasury board should not be tolerated. I do not care which minister is present who happens to belong to it. I think treasury board considers nothing whatever except pinching a penny, and the members of it do not care whose penny they pinch.

Mr. STIRLING: That is what they are there for.

Mr. MAYBANK: I often wonder how the woman would have fared who is mentioned in the bible—

Mr. MacKENZIE (Neepawa): What do you mean by "pinching"?

Mr. MAYBANK: I will explain that even to the hon. member's satisfaction. The widow had a mite, which was a very small sum of money. She went to the synagogue and dropped it in the collection plate. She was commended by the Master and became a famous woman. Had she happened to be a charwoman in a government institution, attention would never have been drawn to her as it was drawn to the woman in the bible, because the treasury board would have got the mite away from her and she would never have been able to go to the synagogue and drop anything in the collection plate. I do not know of any organization that is responsible for more injustice in this country than the treasury board of this government. Everywhere you turn you run into cases where, because people can do nothing to defend themselves, they have had something taken away from them. In nearly all cases you find that they are either officers who cannot organize their case, or poor people who cannot speak for themselves. You will find women who are already poorly paid, and some rule takes away some small pension they