

Pensions and other benefits.

322. Pensions to mounted police, Prince Albert volunteers and police scouts on account of the rebellion of 1885, \$83.95.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Is this the last of them? This seems to be an old item.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): He is the only one left of that brigade.

Item agreed to.

Pensions and other benefits.

325. Pension to Basil Burke Currie, \$684.20.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Under the statute is the pension system contributory?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): It is in the case of the constables, not the officers.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Has the department given consideration to that? It would mean a substantial sum if it were made contributory. Has it ever been suggested that it should be? It might be better in the interests of the men themselves; it is a form of saving.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): There is a fund for the widows and orphans to which the men contribute.

Mr. BROOKS: What is the retiring age for the mounted police, and what is the allowance?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): For officers the retiring age is from sixty to sixty-three, and for other ranks, from fifty-six years. The allowance is based on length of service.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I understand the pension and other benefits in one case is to the widow of a mounted policeman who, I presume, lost his life in the service. But on a preceding page of the estimates I see that a man from the legal profession gets a pension of \$555 a month, whereas the pension to the widow is \$38.02 a month. Where is the justice in that?

Mr. NICHOLSON: Some of them get \$1,000 a month.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: The superannuation of a retired judge is \$555.56 a month, whereas to the lady it is \$456.25 a year, which, as I divide it, amounts to \$38 a month. I submit that, whether she be a judge's wife or a mounted policeman's wife, a woman is entitled to a decent standard of living. If a judge is any better than a mounted policeman, I want to be shown.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): My hon. friend is wrong about judges' wives, because they receive nothing.

Mr. WRIGHT: Is not the explanation that there are some seventy members of the legal profession in this house, and no mounted policemen?

Mr. BROOKS: Could the minister give some more definite information as to allowances paid to mounted policemen on retirement? He said it is according to years of service, but that is not quite definite.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): It is based on length of service and rate of pay, and it would amount to about two-thirds of his salary.

Mr. GRAYDON: Many comparisons have been made to-night about many people. I was amazed to hear the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright) who is one of the best farmers in Saskatchewan—I know because I was on his farm this year—raise his voice with regard to lawyers, also the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank), both of whom pride themselves on the great reputation of agriculture; yet it is left to me, a solicitor, to raise my voice in the matter. If comparisons are to be made, why not bring in the lowest paid man in the whole country, namely, the farmer?

Mr. MARTIN: Is it not a fact that in addition to the inadequacy of pay, an officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is denied during the first years of his service the legitimate opportunity of marital association?

Mr. ADAMSON: The first seven years?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I can not say anything as to that.

Mr. GRAYDON. I suggest that the Minister of National Defence might answer that question.

Item agreed to.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Administration service.

1. Departmental administration, \$121,925.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Would the minister make a statement giving the people of this country some lead as to what they are expected to produce this year in meat, wheat and other foodstuffs essential to the prosecution of the war? It is only fair that he should give the producers some broad lead for the coming year. Would he also give some idea as to the jurisdiction and authority of the federal Department of Agriculture as compared with the officers of provincial departments in the matter of encouraging production?