

work but in maintaining what is commonly termed law and order. The Minister of Justice in his remarks on the second reading spoke of danger from the activities of the communist party in Canada. I am inclined to think that we overdo this alleged danger. We find at the present time throughout Canada a great amount of dissatisfaction and unrest, not on account of the communist party but on account of the vast amount of unemployment that prevails in the dominion. I am quite satisfied that if we had not so much unemployment there would be no need for the increase in police and this large expenditure for that purpose. Instead of spending about \$5,500,000 for the mounted police force to preserve law and order in this country I wish we would spend even a small part of that money in trying to find ways to eliminate unemployment in our midst. If we did we could very well save a large part of this expenditure. I am quite satisfied that there is not much spread of what you might call communism in the dominion. But in any industrial centre in Canada you find great numbers of people unemployed. Where you have vast numbers of men and women out of work you are bound to have dissatisfaction. There are at the present time about 1,000,000 people out of work. When you have one-third of the employable population unemployed you naturally have dissatisfaction. So while I presume the government think this sum is necessary to take care of the situation, for my own part I wish they would try to deal with unemployment in a more fundamental way than they are doing at present. If they did there would be no need to spend these very great sums of money.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is this to be pointed out—perhaps it has not come to the attention of my hon. friend—that we have now in the customs branch of the mounted police a total of 542 men. On land we employ 350 and on the sea 192. The cost of that branch of the service is \$1,504,104. That money was formerly expended, and a considerable sum more, by the customs department. Now it has been taken over by the mounted police and has increased the mounted police vote by that amount. It must also be remembered that we now have taken over the police work of six of the provinces. They pay us about \$800,000 for that service and we pay the rest ourselves. That is an addition to the mounted police vote which did not exist in previous years. It is not fair to charge this all to mounted police work. That work has been done for the last thirty years by the provincial

governments, who maintained provincial police forces. Now we have taken over that work, and as a result we have had to increase the mounted police vote and the personnel of the force very greatly.

Mr. HEAPS: Could the minister give the committee the net increase in the force so far as the Dominion government is concerned?

Mr. GUTHRIE: About 300.

Section agreed to.

On section 1—Arrangement with local governments.

Mr. GUTHRIE: This is the only section remaining, and I am going to move that it be struck out. I believe I will do better to adopt the principle laid down by hon. gentlemen opposite and, instead of having a continuous measure, take advantage of the section in the relief bill which provides for peace, order and good government, should the occasion arise. Therefore I move that section 1 be struck out.

Motion agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

#### PENITENTIARY ACT AMENDMENT

##### PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS BY GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill No. 59, to amend the Penitentiary Act.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East): I did not take part in the debate on the resolution which preceded this bill, Mr. Speaker, because I am largely in sympathy with the object which it seeks to attain. There are one or two clauses in the bill, however, to which I think I must register my dissent, and of course I could not foresee those when the resolution was before the house.

With regard to the appointment of wardens, deputy wardens and guards, I must confess that I have always held the opinion that such appointments should not be made by the Civil Service Commission. Speaking in this house in 1925, as will be found at page 1284 of Hansard for that year, I said:

I am responsible for what happens in the penitentiaries of Canada at the present time. I am responsible if there are evasions; I am responsible if there is a rebellion in a penitentiary anywhere; and I think it is not fair that the wardens and the deputy wardens,