

Supply—Mounted Police

of years while he was looked for by the mounted police to execute an order for his detention that had been made prior to December, 1941, when I became minister.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): Might I ask if there are dossiers on members of parliament as individuals, whether there are dossiers on present members before they became such?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Getting nervous?

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): Not a bit.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: No. I have here a report that the sole exception with respect to members of parliament at the present time is this dossier which had been compiled before the person became a member of parliament, concerning the activities of the hon. member for Cartier while he was being looked for under this order for detention that had been made.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): Can the right hon. gentleman tell me if dossiers are prepared on immigrants coming to this country, and, if so, what is the final disposition of such dossiers after the applicants have been granted citizenship?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I cannot tell the hon. member that dossiers are prepared on immigrants to this country; I am quite sure that is not done as a general practice. There may be cases particularly pointed out to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and requests may be made to them to report upon certain individuals; but it is not the practice to investigate all those who migrate to this country.

Mr. PROBE: Because my constituency is Regina City, which at present is one of the headquarters of the mounted police; because I have been a citizen of Saskatchewan for quite a number of years, I should like to say a few words about the mounted police. I remember them with considerable affection as individuals who used to patrol the plains when we homesteaded. We looked forward to the visit of the redcoat, riding his lovely horse, who would spend the night with us discussing matters of local interest. Those of us who are native to the prairies have a feeling of admiration and friendship for the rank and file of the mounted police. At the present time, as I understand it, by agreement they are officially charged with the maintenance of law and order in six provinces, excluding Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. Their duties have increased to a tremendous extent. They are technical experts in many fields going far beyond the mere maintenance of law and order. In my humble opinion, however, the

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

men in the service are not receiving from the national exchequer the consideration to which the nature of their duties entitles them. I am referring now especially to the non-commissioned officers and constables.

Quite a number of what I consider to be definitely anti-social regulations still apply to members of the mounted police. The seven-year marriage clause is, I think, an anti-social regulation, and I suggest to the minister that it is time we got away from the restriction on this splendid body of men which compels them to remain celibate and potential prey of people who become enamoured of the uniform, while they must live in a manner which I consider not entirely normal. I have in mind a constable who is a personal friend who left the force to enter His Majesty's service. As the minister is aware, limited permission was given members of the R.C.M.P. to enlist when the war began; but in order to maintain their full civilian rights, as I remember it they had to enlist in No. 1 provost company. That was all very well; but the members of the force who enlisted in other organizations, who occupied responsible positions during the war, who received both promotion and high honour, many of whom were decorated, should not, as a result, be penalized by our government in a way they would not permit civilian employers to treat returned men coming back to civil employment. Under the regulations, when a man returns to his pre-war employment he must be given the regular promotions he would have received had he remained at that work during the war. That is not the case in connection with the non-commissioned members of the mounted police, and I think they are being done an injustice in that regard. In the case of the individual I have in mind, the young constable who was decorated for gallantry while in the air force, during the interval that he was absent from the mounted police he got married. When he returned to this country and resumed his status as a constable in the mounted police he was penalized to the extent that he is still on a single constable's pay. I believe the pay for a first-class constable is not to exceed \$2.75 a day. That, of course, is a ridiculous rate of pay for a man who is on call twenty-four hours a day and every day of the week.

Mr. ST. LAURENT: The hon. member is aware, is he not, that for the last three years that has been increased by 75 cents.

Mr. PROBE: I understood that there were certain supplements. However, the nature of those supplements does not appear in Commissioner Wood's report. The rate of pay for this specialized branch of our constabulary,