

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): Can the minister state the justification for withdrawing the mounted police officer from Pugwash in my constituency, a very important seaport? An officer has been stationed there ever since the agreement was entered into with Nova Scotia. The Minister of Justice assured us some time ago that the force was being increased, but the officer has been withdrawn from this point. The community for twenty miles around is rather uneasy. There are a number of settlers from Denmark, many of whom are splendid citizens, but some have not been naturalized. There are a number from Holland and from Germany also. This is one of the largest shipping ports in northern Nova Scotia. Twenty, thirty or forty large steamers, many with foreign crews, come there every year, and in the past the people of this community have relied upon the mounted police to give them protection. Instead of the force being increased, the officer has been withdrawn, and I think we should have an explanation from the minister. What steps will be taken to see that the necessary protection is given to this port.

Mr. CARDIN: I have not before me the particulars of the special case referred to by my hon. friend, so I cannot at the moment give an answer which would satisfy him. That is a kind of information which can be more conveniently given when the estimates are before the committee of supply. At the moment I am advised that it may be the result of a rearrangement of the different districts by the commissioner, and such arrangements, I am told, are always made with the consent of the attorney general of the province.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): If I understand the explanation given by the minister, the withdrawal of this officer was due to representations either made by the federal authorities or approved by the federal authorities. Which?

Mr. CARDIN: By the commissioner of the mounted police himself in rearranging his districts, as he very often does.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): Has that change been reviewed by the department at Ottawa and has it received the commissioner's approval?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes; it could not have been done without his approval.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): I protest against that change. The people of this country from the Atlantic to the Pacific have been assured that they were being given greater protection, that this force had been

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increased by 40 per cent, and that announcement met with general approval. But in the application of this change in policy to the community to which I have reference, Pugwash, Nova Scotia, instead of the community being given greater protection, the officer whom the force had there for years has been withdrawn.

Mr. CARDIN: I repeat that this has been done with the consent of the attorney general of Nova Scotia. At all events the hon. gentleman's representations are now on record, and when the estimates are before the committee of supply I am sure that more complete information can be given to him.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Do I understand from the minister's answer that in Manitoba, for example, where we have an arrangement between the provincial government and the police, if an officer is transferred or a station closed, the matter must first of all receive the approval of the attorney general of Manitoba?

Mr. CARDIN: That is done in every instance.

Mr. GREEN: I have now before me the statement of the Minister of Justice about the strength of the police force, and I find that earlier this session he said that the force was to be increased by 500, the present strength being 2,450. Does the minister say to-night that the force has been increased in the last six weeks from 2,450 to over 4,000?

Mr. CARDIN: I am informed that an order in council was passed to increase the number of uniformed men by 500. The 1,500 that I mentioned a moment ago are specials.

Mr. GREEN: The minister means the men on the roads who wear just their ordinary clothes, with a band round their arm?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: I was referring to the police force itself.

Mr. CARDIN: I am told that they are now getting the 500 into uniform.

Mr. GREEN: That is, the force is to be increased from 2,450 to 2,950?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes.

Mr. BLACK (Cumberland): May I ask how many of that increased number have been stationed in Nova Scotia? What has been the addition to the force in that province within the last year?

Mr. CARDIN: I regret very much that I have not that information at hand at the moment.