

deed. These matters are all elaborated in the bill which I propose to introduce if the resolution is carried.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): In regard to the marine section, is this the first time that that section has been included in the estimates of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police? If so what are the proportions on the Atlantic and Pacific coast respectively?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It is not the first time; they have always been included in the vote. There is no change in the vote under this resolution, but the personnel will now be entitled to be classified, whether as ships' officers or other ratings, in the marine section. There is skipper, assistant skipper, mate, and then the various ratings of the marine section. I cannot say just how the marine service is at present divided, but the larger portion is in northern waters in the east and west Arctic; and those in British Columbia and Atlantic coast waters are engaged very largely in the preventive service work, while in northern waters it is police work.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Is there anyone specially charged with the administration of the section in the province of Quebec?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The whole service is under the administration of Major General MacBrien, commissioner of the force.

Mr. CASGRAIN: But as regards the province of Quebec and that marine service, is there any special officer in charge, a deputy, or whatever is his title?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I do not believe I can tell his title, but when the bill is introduced I will have that information.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): How many provinces are directly policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?

Mr. GUTHRIE: All the provinces except British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Are any negotiations now in progress in regard to any of these three provinces?

Mr. GUTHRIE: There was some informal discussion with members of the government of British Columbia when they were here at the recent conference, but nothing developed. I think the British Columbia government may have the matter under consideration but I have not heard from them since.

Mr. JACOBS: Could the minister tell us the strength of the force throughout the country?

[Mr. Guthrie.]

Mr. GUTHRIE: In all branches, 2,517, of whom 350 are in the preventive service.

Mr. JACOBS: And is it considered necessary to have only two veterinary inspectors?

Mr. GUTHRIE: There are a number of veterinary surgeons, but the rank of assistant veterinary surgeon was never recognized in the act. There are two assistants, one at Regina and the other here at Ottawa. We have horses at only one or two points; I think the total number of horses is only 293 now, though it is still called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We have more motor cars for police work than horses, but at these two points there are assistants veterinary surgeons whose rank never has been recognized under the act.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Would the minister tell us how the personnel has increased in number for the last three years? What was the strength three years ago?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Three years ago we did not have the preventive service. I think the force would number about 1,600 or 1,700. I can get the exact figures when the bill is in committee.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Could the minister tell us how many of these vessels are in service in the province of Quebec?

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, I cannot.

Mr. HEENAN: Did I understand the minister to say that the provision for pensions to widows and dependents would be fifty per cent of the salary?

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, fifty per cent of the retiring allowance to which a man would be entitled if he retired from the force. If a man is killed in the performance of his duties half the amount of his pension would go to his dependents. I may say that the former system of voting the amounts annually in this house was a little inconvenient in some cases. A constable was killed in northern Saskatchewan last year; two hold-up men shot him. He was killed in the performance of his duty and the widow was left entirely without means. She continued without means until the money was voted by parliament, and was dependent upon her friends for her support for six or seven months. If this amendment be passed, should a case of that kind arise again the widow would probably receive assistance within two or three weeks.

Mr. HEENAN: I quite agree with the minister in what he proposes to do, but I was wondering if fifty per cent of the retiring