

apply for old age pensions they have to turn their lives, as it were, inside out, and expose to the public gaze all their affairs before they can get a solitary cent. I see no reason why one class in the community should have provision made for every exigency in life, while the great mass of the people, if they get anything at all, have it handed out to them in the most niggardly fashion. I object to this item in the strongest possible terms.

Item agreed to.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Pensions and other benefits.

358. To compensate members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for injuries received in the performance of duty, \$11,749.16.

Mr. GREEN: We have been passing the items so quickly that possibly my question is not in order under this vote, but perhaps I may be allowed to state it now. It is in connection with general administration. In at least two provinces, Ontario and British Columbia, provincial home guard forces are being established. Could the minister explain to the committee just how he proposes to tie in the work of the mounted police in regard to fifth column activities with the work done by these home guard forces? It seems to me that unless there is the closest cooperation between the federal government, acting through the mounted police, and the provincial governments, acting through their provincial police, many difficult problems may arise. I think the real root of the trouble is that the mounted police have not sufficient forces in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia to look after fifth column activities, because in those provinces there are provincial police forces, while in the other provinces the mounted police do the work ordinarily done by the provincial police. It seems to me that there should be the very closest tie-up between the federal and provincial forces, otherwise there will be all kinds of trouble.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): As my hon. friend knows, the provincial police have exactly the same rights and powers as the mounted police acting in the various provinces. I quite agree that there must be the most complete cooperation between the two forces, but it is important that the distinctive character of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police should be maintained and that the standard and quality of its work should not be impaired in any way. We are trying to increase the force as much as possible. The commissioner is recruiting the best men available, but at this time it is fairly difficult work, because those who might be the best men either have enlisted or are engaged in some

[Mr. MacInnis.]

other occupations. However, the work is being carried on and the increase is gradually being brought about.

With regard to the home guard, which was mentioned in the house this session as being organized, that does not come at all under the mounted police or under the control of the minister in charge of the mounted police. As my hon. friend indicates, however, there ought to be the greatest cooperation possible between all these forces.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): Would it not be possible to have one head for all the police in Canada? With all the provincial and city police forces I think there should be one head to the whole show. Would it be possible to have something done along that line? The minister shakes his head. Of course I appreciate the difficulties that exist, but it seems to me most important that what I suggest should be done. We know there are bound to be certain differences of opinion as between the provinces and the dominion. It must be realized, however, that we could not operate our militia in Canada if we had a head in each province. We realize that in that regard there must be a head for the whole dominion.

I appreciate the difficulties encountered by the mounted police, and I realize how delicately they have to treat all these matters. In my opinion this is a matter to which the government should give careful consideration, so that there may be more coordination, as has been pointed out by the hon. member for Vancouver South.

May I say this with regard to home guards: These men are earnest in what they are doing, and there should be some control over them. In some places there is an effort to have them placed under the city police. Something must be done about that matter.

Mr. POULIOT: I have listened carefully to the suggestions made by the hon. member for St. Paul's (Mr. Ross). It must be realized, however, that Toronto, while it is a beautiful city, is a jealous one. I do not know what his worship the mayor and the aldermen of that city would say if the Minister of Justice were to take charge of the police force in Toronto. We must remember that municipalities are jealous of their privileges, and the hon. member must recognize that fact. I believe that the minister is wise in not taking the step suggested, and that he would be acting properly if he were not to interfere in municipal or provincial affairs. The minister, who is a diplomat, would not seek to encroach upon the privileges of the provinces or the municipalities.