

Mr. GUTHRIE: That might be a good thing. This is asking power to enlist only one or two boys.

Mr. LAPOINTE: All right. As regards subsection (4) I should like to know the reason for giving the commissioner authority for employing in emergency cooks, stenographers, tailors, interpreters and so forth? What kind of emergency would necessitate the appointment of cooks and tailors "for such periods as may be required"?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The object is to avoid swearing them in and making them permanent members of the force. In case of an emergency at some distant point we might have to equip an expedition to go almost up to the Arctic circle, and in such cases heretofore it has been the custom to take on special men. I think the note on page two explains the position. This provision is being inserted at the request of the commissioner to enable the police to take on such cooks and artisans as may be necessary for any particular work without enlisting them as members of the force, and it is provided that they shall not be entitled to anything in the way of pension unless they are recommended for special merit by the commissioner.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Subsection 6 of section 2, respecting the appointment of special constables without pay, seems to be an extraordinary provision. It provides that the commissioner may—

—appoint without pay special constables . . . for a period not exceeding twelve months at any one time for the purpose of maintaining law and order at the request of any department of the government.

Surely an emergency that would last for twelve months would not be far from becoming a permanent situation, a chronic emergency. Is there not some danger in authorizing the commissioner to appoint men without pay for a period of time as long as twelve months, men who will have the rights and the privileges of a constable or police officer, with power to arrest without warning people who are suspected, as constables can do under certain sections of the criminal code without being liable to damage action, and with power to interfere generally with other people's activities? I do not know that under the section it would not even be possible to appoint the friends of one party as special constables to go into political meetings and interfere with what the other party was doing. There is some danger there. It is important to have a good, strong regular police force, but we should surround that force with respect

and consideration. We should not give to people appointed at large, merely at the will of the commissioner, supposedly on the recommendation of somebody, power to interfere with other people and clothe them with all the authority of a constable or police officer. My hon. friends should give good reasons for the enacting of this very special provision.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The object is in case of an emergency in what you might call a more remote part of the Dominion of Canada, where sometimes large bodies of men are employed at mining and the like; where for some reason or another there may be an outbreak against law and order, and where the police force may be very limited. The place might be so remote that it would take considerable time to get a respectable force of men sent there to preserve law and order. This merely gives power to swear in special constables.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Does that mean that the management of the company is to be sworn in and given positions as special constables?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It does not mean that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Who is likely to be sworn in?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It is permitted only on request of a department of the government, and only under the administration of a very competent officer, the commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. There is no idea or intention of abusing any power that may be given to this force. Of course, you may abuse almost any law, particularly any restrictive law, that you place on the statute books. But the object is not to abuse the law, but simply to see that it is fairly and generally administered. This is power to appoint constables for a limited time, at the request of a department of the government, if an emergency should arise. It is on the advice of the commissioner that this clause has been introduced. He thinks it may be useful. We are all aware that in British Columbia at the present moment a situation which may become serious has developed in the Doukhobor settlement, where some one or two hundred have already been apprehended in connection with nude parades, with respect to which we passed a special section of the criminal code last session. There are some fifteen hundred Doukhobors in the district, and a very limited police force available to maintain law and order. We do not maintain a police force in that province, but we cooperate with the local force. We have