

some questions in connection with the commissioner and I was told that he received a salary of \$12,000, less five per cent, as well as free rations, free fuel, free light, free medical attendance and other things, all being valued at another \$2,000. In addition to all this he has the use of a government car with chauffeur. It seems ridiculous to have the commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police receiving almost as much as the prime minister and certainly as much as a cabinet minister. It would seem that either the prime minister and the cabinet ministers are being paid too little or the commissioner is being paid too much. I cannot imagine what he does with his salary when he gets free rations, free fuel, free medical attendance and a free car and chauffeur. Not only that, but he was given a title and has a lot of initials after his name. It all looks to me as though it is playing favourites. While I am on my feet I should like to ask the minister if the commissioner receives a special allowance when he travels in aeroplanes, and if that kind of travelling is done at the expense of the government.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Apart from the salary, which I understand was increased at the time the present commissioner was appointed, all the other items mentioned by my hon. friend are the same as have always been allowed to commissioners of the mounted police. As to aeroplane travel, when the commissioner or any member of the force uses an aeroplane in the execution of his duty, it is paid for by the government.

Miss MACPHAIL: Is there a special allowance when he uses an aeroplane?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): No.

Miss MACPHAIL: Before this item passes, as it undoubtedly will, I want to register a very strong protest against the salary being paid to this commissioner. Compared to the salaries being received by responsible ministers of the crown and by deputy ministers, this salary seems to be extravagant. The business of the commissioner is to keep people from rioting and to maintain law and order, but I think the payment of such salaries will incite the people to discontent and restlessness, if not to actual rioting. There are many Canadians who are quite as good as anyone in the government service, ministers of the crown and the commissioner included, and nothing makes them angrier than to read a long list of pay and allowances such as was given in reply to questions which I asked earlier in the session. The salary is large, the allowances are extraordinary, and all the favours

[Miss Macphail.]

that possibly could be given have been given to the commissioner. I have nothing against the commissioner personally; I want him to receive a substantial salary and be honoured for the good work he does, but I think it is just ridiculous that he should receive such a salary. I do not suppose anything can be done about it at the moment, but I do suggest to the government that they give careful consideration to the lessening of these allowances and the decreasing of this salary until such time as all Canadians are in a more comfortable position. I almost see red—it is hardly safe to say that in the presence of the commissioner—when I think of the number of people in Canada who are suffering real want and who are making a desperate effort to raise families in decency so that they will not be citizens who require the police to keep them in order. When there are such people throughout the country, just as good as any of the rest of us, and they see a thing like that, I do not wonder that they feel there is no use relying on parliament—and there is that tendency in Canada. They say that we do nothing but talk; but if they saw the items going through to-day they would change their minds about that. But there is a feeling that direct action of some sort will have to be taken finally unless we, their representatives, wake up to such things as this. I am indignant when I think of this in connection with the commissioner, the head of the force, who is supposed to keep in order people who are out of order because they have not sufficient of the necessities of life to make them comfortable. The two things simply do not go together. Of all the high officers of government this more than any other is the one that should not be extravagantly paid or in any way made conspicuous. It seems that the thing that matters in Canada is the use of force to keep order rather than the alleviation of conditions, distressful economic conditions, that cause the disorder. It is a stupid emphasis of the importance of police—

Mr. LENNARD: Carried.

Miss MACPHAIL: No, it is not carried. I am going to talk; you people do a lot of talking.

Mr. LENNARD: Not me.

Miss MACPHAIL: That is something to be thankful for. I say this last word to the government. I trust that by the time the next session comes around they will place the commissioner on terms of equality with other government servants who are doing similar work.