

Anywhere in the English-speaking world where their picture appears in the moving picture theatres, it is invariably received with great applause. They are indeed a great credit to our country, and I trust that anything I say to-night will not be construed as detracting from their great merits.

The pay which they receive has been compared this evening with the pay which the ice-man receives for filling the small receptacles in the rooms in the House of Commons. But let me point out, Mr. Chairman, that the ice-men in the House of Commons probably work for only three, or a maximum of four months in the year.

Mr. SLAGHT: That is not so. Most of them have other positions and work all the year round.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford City): Well, I do not know much about the ice-man.

Mr. SLAGHT: Yes, but the hon. member does not drink any water.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford City): No doubt other hon. members can speak with greater authority on the ice-man and his duties than I can.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): May I interrupt the hon. member to say that I was here for fourteen years and I did not have an ice-man at all.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford City): The leader of the opposition and I are more or less in the same position in that regard. Also the rate of pay which is given to the messengers has been quoted to-night and contrasted with the rate of pay of the members of this great force. But here again I would remind hon. members that the messengers in the house work for three or a maximum of four months in the year.

I know many men in my own constituency—I am sure this is true also about other constituencies—who would work for a lower rate of pay than that received by the mounted police if they could be assured of pay from day to day throughout the year. The men of this force are assured of pay for 365 days of the year. Last year they got paid for 366 days. They also receive a clothing allowance. In addition to the \$2.25, they have a clothing allowance and other allowances which one hon. member has mentioned, totalling \$1.25, which brings their pay to \$3.50 a day. At the end of their period of service they receive a pension, which also is something of great value. I think hon. members will agree with me that many men would work at a lower

wage than they ordinarily work for if they knew that at the end of a certain time they would receive a pension for life.

I am not saying that the men of this force are overpaid. I do not say that their pay should not be increased. But I consider that these points which I have mentioned should be brought to the attention of hon. members. Not only the police in this great force but the police in our city forces are doing at this time a great and responsible work.

What about our private soldiers? I remember that in the last war the private soldier received \$1.10 a day. In this war he is somewhat more fortunate, and receives \$1.30 a day.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Not enough.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford City): "Not enough," my hon. friend says. My point is that a man, a private in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police starts at \$1.75 a day, and a private soldier, who is prepared to go abroad and risk his life, or to risk it in this country, starts at \$1.30 a day. If we are making comparisons, I think we should compare the lot of the man in this great force with that of the private soldier who is doing a great service and is prepared to do a greater service for his country. If we are to revise the rates of pay of the men in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, then, I say, let us consider whether or not we should revise the rates of pay of the private soldiers in the army.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): In normal peace times is it the fact that there is always a substantial waiting list?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Yes.

Mr. ROEBUCK: At the risk of prolonging the debate unnecessarily, let me say a word. It seems to me unfortunate that we have made comparisons between the men of the mounted police and the man who delivers the ice, and the soldier, and others of that kind. The hon. member for Parry Sound had no intention of making that comparison or of putting them on the same basis at all. His only purpose was to make his plea more striking with regard to the mounted police. I regret bringing in the soldier also. The soldier is not making a life work out of winning the war. Some of them will be giving their lives, it is true, and no one with any knowledge of humanity would say that a soldier is serving his country for the miserable pay that we give him. He gets the pay, a trifling pay, but he does not serve for the pay. He is serving for something far higher than pay.