

one, and if the applicant proves suitable he is accepted for a period of training, the training taking place at Regina.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): What is the age limit?

Mr. GUTHRIE: From 22 up to 28 years of age.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): Suppose a few hundred more men were required at a moment's notice, how would they be recruited?

Mr. GUTHRIE: We have at the present time a very long list of accepted applicants, some three or four hundred, and the recruits would be taken in the first instance from those already accepted.

Mr. MARCIL: I think it is only right that I should call to the minister's attention that in my view the constables on duty in the province of Quebec should be bilingual. Some of them operate in purely French districts, and it would be advisable to have them speak both languages.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Some time ago I submitted a list which appears on Hansard of the members of the force who are stationed in Quebec, and with one or two exceptions they are all French-Canadians. If they are not French-Canadians they are bilingual.

Mr. McINTOSH: Suppose you wanted a certain number of men in a particular province; would the applications from that particular province receive the preference?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It would depend on how quickly we wanted the men. We would take them from the nearest point I would assume, but in every province and district there is a long waiting list so it would not be very difficult to secure men.

Mr. McINTOSH: Subsection 7 of section 6 provides that time served in South Africa may be included. Does that refer to both active and non-active members of the force, or only to the active members?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Just to the active members. I am told it applies to only a very few men.

Mr. McINTOSH: It rules out those who served in South Africa and who are not now members of the force?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Those who have retired on pension and are already out of the force would be ruled out.

Section agreed to.

Section 7 agreed to.

On section 8—Time served in South Africa may be included.

Mr. HEAPS: What is the total number of the members of the force at the present time?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I can give the figures as of the first of October last, and I do not think it has varied much since then. On the first of October last the number was 2,348, which includes the preventive service.

Mr. HEAPS: What number of preventive service men?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The number of the preventive service men that we took over at the time of the amalgamation was 350. I think the number has increased a little since then.

Mr. EULER: Are they maintained as a distinct body, that is distinct from the rest of the mounted police?

Mr. GUTHRIE: They are members of the police force, in every way subject to the discipline of the force, but they are employed on that preventive service work to a very large extent. Some have been transferred to other places, but I think ninety per cent of them are still engaged in that work either on land or sea.

Mr. EULER: Are they in any way under the control of the Department of National Revenue?

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, they are entirely under the officers of the police.

Mr. McINTOSH: Could the minister give the percentage of increase in the force during the past year?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I think I can give the actual figures of increase. The actual increase including the customs service last year was 979 men. That includes the men taken on the forces of the various provinces.

Mr. POWER: What is the total now?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It is 2,348.

Mr. POWER: Could the minister tell the number of men in the force in 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932?