

into the great general body of police, so that on one occasion a member of the force may act in a certain capacity and on another occasion in an entirely different capacity. Will there be a separate unit within the mounted police so that the men may become experts in particular lines and thus be able to carry out their duties to the very best advantage?

Mr. GUTHRIE: They will form part of the main body of the police, but a special investigation department will be maintained for the purpose of handling customs and excise cases.

Mr. EULER: Then I would like to ask the minister whether there is some basis of co-operation between that particular branch of the mounted police and the customs branch of the Department of National Revenue. It must be quite evident to all members of the committee that the customs branch of the Department of National Revenue will necessarily come in contact with instances of smuggling, of undervaluation and of all the other violations of the Customs Act, and that of necessity, in order to have the work properly carried out, there should be close cooperation between that branch of the mounted police and the customs branch of the Department of National Revenue.

Perhaps the minister will bear with me if I deal with another point before he answers that question. In incorporating these men of the preventive service into the mounted police—and I am in accord with that action, because for the information of the committee I might say that when I had the honour to be in charge of the department we were considering the very course that has now been followed—what disposition is being made of the assistant chiefs? Under the old system the country was divided into districts. There was the maritime district, the Quebec district, the Ontario district, the prairie provinces, each with a sub-chief at the head. What has become of the assistant chiefs of what was formerly known as the preventive service?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Some of those chiefs have been taken into the force and some have been let out. This has been done on the recommendation of the officers called divisional chiefs. They made the selections.

Mr. EULER: I am speaking of the divisional chiefs now.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Four of those chiefs have been taken into the force.

Mr. EULER: May I ask in what capacity?

Mr. GUTHRIE: They will be chief preventive officers of their own divisions.

Mr. EULER: With greatly reduced salaries, I suppose?

Mr. GUTHRIE: With a reduction in salary of about one-third.

Mr. EULER: Would the minister tell me what connecting link, if any, remains between the Department of National Revenue and this particular branch of the mounted police?

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is a very close connection between the mounted police and the Department of National Revenue. The department will still administer the Customs and Excise Act and will still maintain an investigation branch, which will be kept closely in touch with those members of the mounted police who are specially detailed to look after customs and excise cases. The commissioner himself has arranged that connection between the two departments. I can assure my hon. friend that the Department of National Revenue and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are to be kept in the closest touch at all times.

Mr. VENIOT: Do I understand that the sea forces of the preventive service are to come under the mounted police?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes.

Mr. VENIOT: Can the minister tell the committee why that was done? Was it because of any experience that the mounted police might have had with sea forces?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The main object was to take over the whole preventive service and to avoid what might be called divided responsibility. I think the mounted police are just as competent as the Department of National Revenue.

Mr. VENIOT: I do not think they are for preventive service on the high seas.

Mr. GUTHRIE: We are to have the services of Commander Oland of the naval service in formulating a plan for the proper maintenance of this service and the proper carrying out of the duties which pertain to it.

Mr. VENIOT: I do not think any commander can give better service in the prevention of smuggling than that given already. To put a man at the head of these forces who knows nothing of the system employed by the smugglers will tend only to lessen the efficiency of the preventive service by sea. I know nothing of the Pacific coast, but I do know that the preventive service by sea in the maritime provinces has reached an efficiency which no commander of the naval