

*Royal Canadian Mounted Police*

allowed. As a consequence, the applicants for it are very numerous; there is a long waiting list, but for ordinary recruiting purposes the age is from twenty-two to twenty-eight, unmarried.

Mr. BROWN: In the selection of men for the preventive force, will the fact of their being married or otherwise be taken into consideration?

Mr. GUTHRIE: I think that has been omitted in the preventive force on account of the previous record of these men in the department.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): If men marry while on the force, will they be dismissed?

Mr. GUTHRIE: They cannot, without obtaining permission, get married and remain on the force and they are not entitled to obtain that permission until they have been in the service for a considerable time, I think twelve years.

Mr. YOUNG: I believe the object in making that regulation was to keep the force as mobile as possible. That was in the days of the purely mounted police when they were policing a vast, unsettled country, but now with the provincial police force taken over, most of the men will be permanently located in certain places. Will it not be possible now to alter that regulation to some extent?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The question of expense enters largely into the matter of a married establishment. A married man receives allowances for his wife and family and he has to have family quarters just as is the case in the army. It is more expensive to maintain a force where a large number of the men are married. There is, however, no permanent place of residence in connection with any of these forces; they may be moved around at the will of the commissioner, and when you come to move married men with their families, you have to pay the expense of moving which is very considerable.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Appointment of constables, trumpeters and buglers.

Mr. LAPOINTE: What is the purpose of appointing boys as trumpeters and buglers? I do not see the usefulness of trumpeters and buglers in a police force. I am afraid the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is right in saying that possibly the commissioner does not forget his former prominent activ-

[Mr. Guthrie.]

ities as head of the Canadian militia. I quite understand the necessity of trumpeters and buglers in military camps, but in a police force—

Mr. GUTHRIE: I am afraid my hon. friend has forgotten his own record as Minister of Justice in charge of this force.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I do not think I ever appointed buglers.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I am sure the hon. member did.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I do not remember doing so.

Mr. GUTHRIE: He will find them in Regina.

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend may be able to show where I have done this awful thing, but if I have, I am sorry for it, and I would advise my hon. friend not to follow my example because it is certainly wrong.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There have been buglers and trumpeters in the force for many years, but they have grown old. The idea is if you take on a trumpeter or a bugler, you ought to take on a young man, as is done in the army. We have had a number of applications from lads of fifteen, sixteen or seventeen and we cannot accept them because the minimum age is twenty-two. It is the young lads who make the best kind of buglers and trumpeters. There is no idea of increasing the force; possibly one or two only will be taken on. There is no power, under the act as it stands at present, to recruit young lads.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The words in the clause are new. Were the present buglers and trumpeters appointed without authority?

Mr. GUTHRIE: No. They were recruited in the ordinary way; men from twenty-two and older were made into trumpeters and buglers, but this is to meet the case of young lads who desire to join as trumpeters and buglers.

Mr. LAPOINTE: But to what use are they put?

Mr. GUTHRIE: They have always had them in the force. It must be remembered that the mounted police is trained on a military basis, more like a cavalry regiment and in such regiments trumpeters and buglers are looked upon as an absolute necessity.

Mr. JACOBS: Not for the preventive part of the service, I hope; they will be notifying the smugglers.