

legislature the premier, referring to the case to which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has alluded, declared that the matter had been fully investigated by a judge of the sessions in Montreal as well as by a coroner's jury, and that in both cases this policeman had been exonerated from any blame in the matter. I do not know anything of the matter more than that. It was also stated yesterday, and endorsed by the leader of the opposition in the legislature, that the laws for the maintenance of order in the province of Quebec would be revised in order to give some protection to the citizens of that province against the actions of the foreign element which has come to Quebec in the last few years. This brings the matter to a head. Our province has had the reputation of being very peaceful and law-abiding; everyone wants it to remain so, but those who read the Montreal papers no doubt are aware that there is a very strong communistic element now established in that city, and certain things which have occurred lately have brought this matter to the attention of the government, who intend to deal with it.

With regard to the carrying of firearms, as the Minister of Justice properly said, there is a question of jurisdiction. The province of Quebec has its own police force; the Dominion government has its police force. If the Dominion government wishes to authorize its men to carry firearms it has full power to do so, and the province may do the same thing. The cities, if they wish their police to be armed, must obtain the authority of the legislatures of the provinces. This is a complicated question, but I have lived in the city of Montreal for many years, and I have often wondered why the windows of the pawnshops and second hand stores were permitted to be filled with cast off revolvers selling for a dollar, a dollar and a half or two dollars. Who should control this? I have no doubt this matter has been inquired into by the Minister of Justice, but that is where the cheap revolver is obtained which is used by the man committing a crime. If a way could be found to curtail the sale of firearms except by properly authorized and responsible persons I think a great forward step would be taken.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is provided for in this bill.

Mr. MARCIL: The ex-Minister of Justice tells me that this is dealt with in the bill now before us, and I am glad to hear it. With the recent fires and other occurrences in

Montreal the people have come to realize that something must be done to maintain the reputation of Canada and her citizens, and I am glad that this matter is being taken up now.

Mr. REID: I am afraid that I must differ with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the hon. member for North Bruce. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre was not quite correct when he told the house that the policemen in England are not armed. It is true that for generations the members of the police forces of the old country were not allowed to carry arms, but a wave of crime has swept the old country, with bandits going around with guns, and to-day many of the metropolitan cities are arming their policemen with guns in order to combat this wave of crime. I have in my hand some statistics with regard to Vancouver, and I believe this house will be startled to learn that in the first eleven months of 1932 there were 411 armed holdups in that city. Out there life and limb are not safe. Some of the bandits are so cruel that if they hold up a man who has no money they beat him almost to death with their guns. They leave the cities in fast motor cars and go to peaceful settlements where, at the point of the gun, they hold up storekeepers and beat them up if they have not enough money to satisfy the bandits. I think it would be a dastardly crime to leave our local policemen without some means of protection against these bandits.

Personally, Mr. Chairman, I am heartily in support of this bill, and I should have liked to see it go even further. In connection with these holdup men I believe most of those who are caught are hardened criminals. I have a reference before me to the case of one man who admitted that he had been in one hundred holdups. How are we to deal with that sort of people if we have not some protection? I believe in drastic measures if we are to have any protection at all against these thugs and bandits, and certainly I believe in arming local policemen.

Mr. HANBURY: I think all members of this house hope the time will come when our policemen will not need to be armed, but when we have so many men going around the country carrying arms I think it would be a shame and a disgrace to take from our policemen their means of protecting the lives of our citizens. The hon. member for New Westminster has just referred to the holdups that took place in Vancouver during the first eleven months of 1932. These figures were