

any war work they are doing, in crime detection in all its phases. That calls for a very high type of officer, as the hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght) has pointed out, and it seems to me that it will be impossible for this government to continue to attract to and keep on the force the type of men we must have if its high reputation and good work are to be maintained unless the present rates of pay are increased.

We should perforce demand in our own interest, by reason of the change that has taken place in the duties of this police force, a proper scale of remuneration to the members of the force. I know that during the depression many types of fine young men found an outlet for their energy by joining the force but I am certain that the rates of pay to which we have listened to-night, cannot in ordinary normal times keep in the force the type of men we want to see in it. We seem to be in agreement on that to-night, and I would inquire from the minister how we can properly register our opinion as a committee. If any member of the committee disagrees with the sentiments that have been so generally expressed to-night about the force and the rates of pay, I would ask him to give expression to his views, failing which, I think the minister may take it for granted that every member of this committee would like to see the services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police properly recognized in the matter of pay and allowances.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): I have been a member of this house for a good many years, but never before has it been my experience that a vote brought before the committee by a minister has met with such general approval. In years gone by, the Minister of Justice has encountered opposition in presenting his vote for the mounted police. I am glad that the attitude of the committee has altered, because no one could have more admiration for the mounted police than I have. For over forty years I have seen them at work. When first I came in contact with them, they were the "North West Mounted Police," and not the "Royal Canadian Mounted Police" as they are now; and they policed the western frontier. It was my privilege to go on that great gold rush some forty-two years ago, in which people on their way to the Yukon, into the Klondike gold-fields, had to go through Alaska, where law and order were unknown, where murder and robbery were common, where people's lives were not safe and they had no protection at all. But as that crowd went

[Mr. Graham.]

up the trail and came to the Canadian boundary and the union jack and the mounted police, they faced an altogether different situation. When men came up there with revolvers or pistols strapped on their belts, their first experience of the mounted police was to be tapped on the shoulder and told, "You had just better give me that gun; you might hurt yourself with it. They are not needed on this side of the boundary." They were not allowed to carry guns, except sporting guns and rifles for hunting game; no other guns were allowed to be carried in the Yukon.

It seems shameful that a force as valuable to Canada as is the mounted police should be asked to carry on as it does, with the utmost efficiency, for so paltry a remuneration. According to figures given to the committee this evening, they are not paid as much as the commonest of common labourers. I do not think a mounted policeman should be asked to be a member of this force in any part of Canada for less than \$5 a day. Where can one get labour for less? One cannot get a carpenter, for instance, for less than a dollar an hour. I am sure that the services of this force are of sufficient value to the people of Canada to warrant our paying them a stipend more in keeping with the value of the services they render.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: To make this unanimous, may I add a voice from this group. Quite by accident, last summer in this very city there came to my attention the case of a constable in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment here whose pay was so low, and the cost of living in this city so high, that his wife was compelled to take in washing to maintain a decent standard of living in that home.

In supporting this direction to the minister, I would say that many men in the force find it impossible to live ordinary lives, get married and settle down, on account of the regulations and because the pay is so low, that is, in the first seven years. I would urge the department, in making any increases, to pay particular attention to the position of married men in the force who are trying to maintain homes, and see that in no case the standard of living is below that which should be maintained by ordinary decent citizens.

Mr. MACDONALD (Brantford City): There is no one in this country who has a higher regard for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police than I have. Canada is rightly proud of this great force, and we have with pride sent them to other countries, where they have always been exceedingly well received.