

ARE OPPOSED TO MOUNTED POLICE IN EAST. CANADA

Government Hears a Protest From Both Sides of Commons

MORE ECONOMY PLEAS

Trying to Make Standing Army Out of Police, Says Hon. Mr. King

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)
Ottawa, June 7.—While Members of Parliament generally are proud of the traditions of the Royal Mounted Police, many of them did not intend to allow their hearts to run away with their heads when it comes to pointing to the need for a reduction in the estimates of the force. When the estimates of the force were under consideration in the Commons tonight a protest was made in which members from both sides of the House joined, against continuing the force in eastern Canada. It was contended that it was a mistake to have ever extended the force into this part of the Dominion. Coupled with this protest was a strong plea from the Liberals that immediate economies should be instituted in order to reduce the estimates for the present fiscal year.

Ask for Five Millions.

The estimates the House was asked to vote amounted to \$4,674,066, which, together with an estimate under the Department of Public Works of half a million dollars for new buildings for the force in Ottawa, made the total over five million dollars. It was pointed out by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King that in 1910-11 the total estimates for both the R. N. W. M. P. and the Dominion Police, which now have been amalgamated, were \$808,000. Back in those years, the Liberal leader pointed out, the total vote for the Militia Department was only \$6,300,000. "It looks as though the Government were trying to make a standing army out of the police force," commented Mr. King.

The President of the Privy Council, Hon. N. W. Rowell, denied any such intention. The great increase in the estimates was due to the necessary increase in wages, and the expenses of the forces generally under existing abnormal times. When conditions were restored to normal the force would be reduced, and he hoped the estimates next year would be lower. At present the militia had not been reorganized, and the Government felt that it was necessary to have a trained force of some kind to maintain law and order in the country.

Regulate Feedstuffs.

Hon. Dr. Tolmie, Minister of Agriculture, piloted through the committee a resolution proposing to regulate the sale and inspection of commercial feeding stuffs, bran, shorts, middlings and chop feeds. It is also proposed that an advisory board be formed to supervise and regulate the quality of the feedstuffs. Legislation of this kind in the past had been under the administration of the Inland Revenue Department, the Minister explained. In future the Department of Agriculture would administer the law.

The resolution was endorsed by several members, including Hon. T. A. Crerar. While favoring control Donald Sutherland, North Oxford claimed that as the result of adulteration of feedstuffs thousands of cattle had died. There had been assurances, he said, that the evil would be dealt with by the Government, and instead he felt it was being continued.

Dr. Tolmie replied that the statements of adulteration were exaggerated. There was a demand for the millfeeds, and the best way was to have legislation to guard against

adulteration. A bill based on the resolution was given first reading.

Continue Coal Director.

There was considerable discussion on a Senate bill respecting the Director of Coal Operations. Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior, explained that it provided for continuing the office of Director in District 13 in the West, and also clothing that official with the authority granted by orders in Council.

While the bill in no way affected Ontario, several Ontario members took occasion to point out the desirability of the Government taking steps to provide adequate fuel for that Province next winter. Col. J. A. Currie, North Simcoe, remarked that "the lumbermen and timber wolves had taken all our timber away." It was therefore the duty of the Government, he said, to see that the people of Ontario had a six-months' supply of coal on hand.

The suggestion was made by two or three Western members during the discussion that it would be better to pay the C. N. R. to haul coal from the West to central Canada at high rates than to hand over \$47,000,000 to meet the deficit on the National Railways without getting any service whatever. J. H. Burnham (West Peterboro') interposed to remark that Canada had coal in large quantities, but "apparently had not the brains to get it here."

Coal Situation Improves.

Replying to the suggestions and criticisms, Mr. Meighen held out no hope for a reduction in freight

rates on coal. He believed that coal was one of the commodities transported the more of which was handled the greater was the loss to the transporting company. There were many difficulties in getting coal from the West to the East, including the fact that it could not be stored. A committee of the Cabinet had in hand consideration of the coal situation in Ontario, and while he was not a member of it, the Minister of Labor was, and he had in-

formed the speaker that the situation was better now than it had been a few weeks ago.

When the bill was taken up in committee Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King objected to the Director being authorized to continue in office until the end of the session next year. When the Minister refused to accept an amendment he suggested, he moved that authority be granted the Director to continue in office only until March 31, the end of the

fiscal year. The amendment was defeated. Mr. King warned the Government that it would be advisable to call Parliament earlier next year, so as to have the estimates considered before the end of the fiscal year. While the Opposition this session had granted two months' interim supply, he intimated that the Liberals would not meet the Government in this way next session.

Progress was reported on the bill.