

because his brother was seriously ill, and she wrote him several times, getting no reply. She kept writing, and he got fourteen letters all at once. She sent him a telegram that his brother was seriously ill, and he did not receive the telegram until he got leave of absence for other reasons, and went home. This young man has a brother at the front. In connection with this case, I wish to direct the minister's attention to this fact: that young man enlisted, but when he reached Halifax he underwent another medical examination, and was pronounced unfit for overseas service. Being unfit, he wished to leave the army, as there was no use remaining there any longer. This happened six months ago, and he has not received his discharge yet. His brother is seriously ill, and there is no person at home to take charge of the farm, his mother being a widow.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Has the hon. gentleman reported the matter to the department?

Mr. HUGHES: No, I just got the information the other day. The soldier's uncle gave me the information, and I understood it has been reported to the department.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: What answer did they get?

Mr. HUGHES: No answer.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Oh, they must have received an answer.

Mr. HUGHES: I will take it up with the minister and the department, and give him all the names and facts in connection with it. The amount mentioned in this return is exceedingly large. I want to bring another fact to the minister's notice, showing clearly, I think, that there are entirely too many officers at Halifax. Last winter in my home town there were eighteen men, in barracks. The captain in command of these few men had been in his father's office for some years; he was a business man of considerable experience. He had under him a lieutenant also a man of considerable business experience. Yet an officer was sent from Halifax to that town to purchase the food required by these eighteen men. Surely that was waste and overlapping; the captain of that detachment could surely have done that work himself. In fact, it was generally known that the officer from Halifax was sent to that town in order that he might have something to do. These things make a bad impression

[Mr. J. J. Hughes.]

upon the country; they lead the people to believe that actual waste is going on. Any business man would come to that conclusion. Moreover, the employment of a large number of recruiting officers at salaries of over \$2,000 each, when no recruiting is being carried on, is surely a serious waste of public money. The department cannot be wholly without knowledge of these conditions; it is time that they were taken up and remedied.

Mr. KYTE: Is there any difference between the pay of officers of the militia and that of officers who have enlisted for overseas?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Yes.

Mr. KYTE: Which is the larger?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The Canadian Expeditionary Force rates are higher than the militia rates.

Mr. KYTE: The general officer commanding Military District No. 6, Halifax, General Benson, receives a salary of \$3,675, while the officers under him receive much higher pay. Take for instance, Brigadier-General McLean, who is getting a salary of \$6,012 a year. Lieut.-Colonel Powell is receiving Canadian Expeditionary Forces pay at a much higher rate than that at which General Benson is paid. These gentlemen are not performing overseas services; they are enlisted in Military District No. 6; they are under the command of General Benson, yet their salaries are much in excess of his.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The return brought down in respect to the matter is misleading. The pay and allowance of an officer commanding a district is \$4,600 per annum. General Benson receives that salary, but certain deductions are made on account of house rent, fuel, light, etc., bringing the amount down to \$3,675 per annum. The return is misleading also in reference to Brigadier-General McLean; the amount of \$6,012 is too much by \$720. There was an error in respect of the separation allowance; it should not have been included. Brigadier-General McLean is on the Canadian Expeditionary Force and receives the pay of a Brigadier-General. He is temporarily employed, receiving the same pay as an officer overseas.

Mr. KYTE: As a matter of fact, he is not overseas; the ordinary mind finds it difficult to understand why the pay is so large. This list shows that Major Purney received last year \$2,972. Is he getting overseas pay?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: If he has been overseas he is still in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.