

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED:

1. No.
2. No.
3. Yes; when there are good and sufficient reasons, but such cases are extremely rare.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I desire in this connection to refer to the case of an officer who was a member of the Canadian militia. When the war broke out he took an active part in getting volunteers for his regiment, which was a mounted battalion stationed at Kamloops. The battalion came down to Valcartier with a full complement of 650 men and officers. At Valcartier the battalion was broken up. This officer then went forward to England, and, as I understand, was loaned to the British Government and received an appointment in England. Afterwards he was moved to Egypt and later on to Mesopotamia, where he was wounded. Upon his return to England he was informed by the British Government that he was not entitled to the special allowance made to British officers who had served in the forces in Mesopotamia, inasmuch as he was looked upon as a Canadian officer. Later on, on May 14, 1917, he was informed indirectly that he had been transferred to the British War Office and that the allowance which had been given to his wife in common with the wives of other Canadian officers had been withdrawn without notice either to himself or to his wife. It seems rather a hardship that because he was a Canadian officer he was not entitled to the special allowance made to British officers in Mesopotamia, and in the second place that he was transferred without any definite notice to the British forces, and that his wife was cut off from the allowance which is given to the wives of Canadian officers. I understand that this officer took the matter up before the Imperial Board and was thanked by General Smuts for doing so, as it affected officers belonging to New Zealand, Australian, and South African forces in England, and in consequence materially helped in their success in getting recognition from the British War Office. Therefore I want to bring this matter to the attention of the Government in the hope that they will give some consideration to it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I shall be glad to attach the remarks of my honourable friend to the inquiry and submit them to the Department of Militia.

THE STEAMER LEEBRO.

INQUIRY.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK inquired of the Government:

1. What is the annual rental paid by the Department of Marine and Fisheries or the Department of Naval Service for the steamer Leebro?
2. From Whom is this vessel rented?
3. What are the terms of the arrangement?
4. Are the wages and expenses of the crew paid in addition to the rent?
5. How long has the present arrangement been in existence?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED:

1. This vessel is under charter to the Department of Marine and Fisheries at \$150 per day, for so long as the department shall require her services.
2. The Crescent Shipping Company, Victoria, B.C.
3. The rates referred to are for the steamer all found in supplies of all kinds, and cover the wages of the necessary officers and crew for navigating the boat, also fuel and provisions. The owners have also to keep the vessel in repair at their own expense.
4. No.
5. The Leebro has been chartered by the department from time to time since June 3, 1908, the rate being \$135 per day until December 16, 1911, when the department succeeded in getting a reduction of \$10 per day. The steamer has been in service from that date until August 1, 1917, at \$125 per day, on which date the rate was increased to \$150 per day, owing to the increased cost of coal, supplies, wages, etc.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND RETURNED SOLDIERS.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

Hon. GEORGE G. FOSTER rose:

To call the attention of the Senate to Experimental Farms being operated by the Government of Canada, their location, the acreage contained in each farm, the distance from each farm to the nearest post office and the nearest village or city, and the population of such village or city, and the employees kept in connection with each farm.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, in moving for the information which I have requested in connection with the Experimental Farms of Canada, my object is to bring before this House—and before the Government—a question which I believe to be of great importance to this country, to the returned soldiers, and to the usefulness of the Experimental Farms of Canada. I am aware that the members of this body,