

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Why should not the hon. minister go a little farther than the headquarters staff? I can speak feelingly on this subject because I am a member of the headquarters staff and I can speak for those who are not of it. Why not make it applicable to the whole militia? There are men who might distinguish themselves in the field to whom it might be applied. Suppose that an officer in command of the force in the field were to distinguish himself after which he desired to retire, why should this honour not be conferred upon him?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I think it might be dangerous to extend it beyond the present limitation, but I will think that over.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The insertion of the word 'or' after the word 'department' making it read 'or for valuable services rendered to the country' would meet the case.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Section 53 is substantially the same as section 48 of the present law. Section 54 replaces sections 49 and 50 of the present law. That is one of the clauses to which I referred at the beginning of this discussion to-day, as one of the subjects which was under discussion and in regard to which I received the approval of the imperial authorities to make the alteration. Under the law as it is now, an imperial officer coming to Canada, of junior date of appointment, would immediately take precedence over a Canadian of senior rank. Take the case of a captain. A captain in the Canadian militia whose appointment dated back ten years is on parade; an imperial officer of the same rank, a captain appointed perhaps a month ago, or just before he crossed the Atlantic, would immediately take precedence and would command the Canadian captain although the latter ten years his senior.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. That is only provided he took his service in the Canadian militia. The English captain per se has no control in Canada.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The present law prescribes that he has.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Only where he takes service in Canada.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Suppose he took service?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Well he would have to come and be gazetted here. I agree that this is a very proper provision. He has to be gazetted but the custom was to gazette these officers to a rank senior to that which they actually held.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The next section, 55, is the same as section 52 of the present law.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Before leaving section 54 which is in connection with commissions, the question has arisen about the position of royal military college graduates. I know that under the College Graduates Act a royal military college graduate upon graduation is made a lieutenant in the engineers. It may not be necessary, inasmuch as that Act is continued in force, to embody it in this Bill.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No, that is provided for in the Royal Military College Act. Section 56 is the same as in the present law with the exception of:

Mounted corps, to whom saddlery may be issued as prescribed.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The words 'mounted corps' in the original draft appeared as 'mounted militia.' Why not change the word 'corps' to 'officers'? Why not take in all mounted officers?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That is worth considering.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. It will never do to make a distinction. Why should an officer of a cavalry regiment get any consideration that the good colonel of the 37th regiment would not receive? A great many officers have great difficulty in securing proper equipment. Why not make it include horse equipment instead of saddles because horse equipment includes bridles and saddles?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Saddlery includes that.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Make it apply to all mounted officers irrespective of corps.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I think that is a good suggestion.

Section 57 of the Bill will be dropped. It is unnecessary because the Customs Act and an Order in Council framed thereunder provide for this clause. Section 58 is practically the same as section 53 of the present law. Section 59 is the same as section 56 of the present law, except that the following words are omitted:

And he shall be entitled to quittance by certificate, and to see such quittance recorded in the book of his corps on returning such article.

These words are considered to be unnecessary.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. There is a great deal of difficulty experienced by officers in getting the equipment of men who are not leaving Canada, but only their own regimental district. Would it not be advisable to amend it by saying: 'About to leave Canada or about to leave their own regimental district.' The officers have great difficulty in finding men who go to the Northwest and elsewhere.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am aware that that is a source of great trouble. I had a communication recently from Major