

4. Was the lease of the former lessee transferred to the Government? If so, on what terms?

5. On what date was the lease signed that expires on the 5th of February, 1918?

6. Did the Government occupy these premises prior to the date of the existing lease? If so, for how long and on what terms?

Mr. REID:

1. 5th February, 1916; owing to destruction of Parliament buildings by fire on 3rd February, it was necessary to have offices at once.

2 and 3. Arrangements for taking these premises was made by Clerk of House of Commons with the Rideau Club at time of fire. The department has no information as to who had lease prior to Government renting said premises from Rideau Club.

4. No.

5. There is no lease. Department of Public Works pays rental at rate of \$2,000 per annum.

6. No. The fire was cause of renting, and premises were rented only temporarily, during construction of Parliament buildings.

COLONEL THE REV. A. E. BURKE.

*Mr. FORTIER:

Referring to an item in the Ottawa Citizen of Monday, September 3, 1917, as follows:

"Colonel the Rev. Father Burke has returned from Washington, accompanied by Lieutenant Charles Alvarez."

1. Was Rev. Colonel Burke at Washington on official business?

2. If so, has he made a report and will such report be brought down to the House?

3. Has Lieutenant Charles Alvarez a commission to, or from, the Canadian Government?

4. If not, what is his business in Canada?

5. What Governments did he and Rev. Colonel Burke represent at Washington?

6. Is the Government to pay the expenses of either, or both, gentlemen going to and returning from Washington?

7. If so, what is the amount of the bills that have been paid or are to be paid?

Mr. MEIGHEN:

1. No.

2. Answered by No. 1.

3. Is a lieutenant in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

4. Answered by No. 3.

5, 6 and 7. Answered by No. 1.

*Mr. FORTIER:

Has the following item in the New York Tribune of August 31, 1917, been brought to the attention of the Government:

"Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Rev. Monseigneur A. E. Burke, of the Canadian army, returning to the Dominion from a special mission in Cuba, expressed the admiration of the other Allies at the appearance of the parading Guardsmen. He said he had witnessed American troops in training in France and was sure

[Mr. J. E. Marcile.]

that the men he saw yesterday would be a valuable addition to their number."

2. On what special mission, if any, was Rev. Colonel Burke despatched to Cuba?

3. Has he made a report to the Government?

4. If not, will he make a report and when?

5. If Rev. Colonel Burke has made a report, will it be brought down in the House?

6. Is the Government to defray the travelling expenses of Rev. Colonel Burke to and from Cuba?

7. If so, what would they amount to?

8. Is Rev. Colonel Burke still on the pay list? If so, at what rate is he paid?

Mr. MEIGHEN:

1. No.

2. None.

3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Answered by No. 2.

8. Colonel Burke is drawing the pay of his rank. He is at present on leave.

*Mr. FORTIER:

1. Has the attention of the Government been directed to the following paragraph in an editorial of the Ottawa Evening Journal of August 29, 1917:

"If the Government is faced with difficulties in the selection of returning officers or presiding officers to take the soldiers' vote, and the Opposition remains suspicious of any appointments made, why not utilize the brigade of chaplains overseas to work out the election machinery?"

2. If so, is it the intention of the Government to act on the suggestion of the Evening Journal?

3. Will Rev. Colonel Dr. A. E. Burke be appointed to take charge of the said returning officers or presiding officers?

4. If not placed in charge, will Rev. Dr. Burke be appointed as one of the said returning officers or presiding officers?

Mr. MEIGHEN:

1. No information.

2, 3 and 4. Answered by No. 1.

*Mr. FORTIER:

1. Is the Government aware that Rev. A. E. Burke has returned to Canada?

2. Has the said Rev. A. E. Burke been provided with an office in the Parliament buildings?

3. If so, has he been entrusted by the Government with any special work, and what is the nature of such work?

4. Does such work, if any, require his consultation with senators and members of Parliament?

Mr. MEIGHEN:

1. Yes.

2. No.

3. No.

4. Answered by No. 3.

MOUNTED POLICE—PENSIONS.

Mr. BUCHANAN:

1. How many retired officers of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police are drawing pensions?

2. What is the pension allowance for officers?

3. In case of the death of a retired officer, does the pension go to his wife and family?