

for the Canadian government at all; it is absolutely and entirely a matter for the Imperial War Office. The granting of the King's medal depends upon the Queen's medal having been previously earned, and no one not already in possession of the Queen's medal has the right to the King's medal. The question as to the recognition of service on shipboard and service in Canada getting ready to embark for South Africa, is purely a question for the imperial authorities and in their regulations they distinctly state that length of war service in South Africa must be a qualification for the Queen's medal. On two or three different occasions representations from different sources have been forwarded by me through the Governor General to the Colonial Office and in each case the most explicit and distinct refusal was given. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Worthington) is entirely mistaken in supposing that Lord Roberts ever recommended the granting of the medal. The Imperial Yeomanry and the Australians were treated in precisely the same way as the Canadians. I refer my hon. friend to 'Hansard' of 1903, pp. 10491 and following for a full statement of the case and copies of all the correspondence on the subject. I propose to read one letter from Mr. Chamberlain to Lord Minto:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's despatch No. 278 of the 22nd August, transmitting a copy of an approved minute of your Privy Council.

I had forgotten that the government of Canada had gone so far as to make it a subject of communication from the Privy Council of Canada and gave it all the force and weight that might convey.

On the subject of the bestowal of the South Africa medal and the payment of the war gratuity to the members of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th regiments, Canadian Mounted Rifles.

I have to acquaint you, for the information or your ministers, that I have submitted the question to the consideration of the Secretary of State for War, but that he, after careful consideration with his military advisers, has decided that no relaxation can be made of the date limiting the grant of the medal or war gratuity.

I have to add that the rule has been adhered to in the case of all the imperial troops who landed in South Africa after the 31st of May, and of the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th battalions of the Australian Commonwealth Horse.

And so on. I could give the telegrams from the War Office, but I think that should be quite sufficient to satisfy my hon. friend that we did all we could, and that it is no use to try to do any more.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. Of course, when you read the last part of that letter you are confusing the last contingent, who arrived after peace was declared. I am contending that it is necessary a man should have first of all the Queen's medal, he could not help

getting it after putting in a claim of this kind, because he would get that after his first twelve months' service. I have been told that a great many imperial officers got this medal who were not in South Africa for eighteen months; they were absent going to Ceylon and St. Helena with Boer prisoners, and were in practically the same position as we were in going to and from South Africa.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT. In regard to the somewhat extended remarks of the minister and the large estimates involved by the increase of the permanent force—a step, by the way, of which I entirely approve—I would like to ask whether it is the intention to do anything towards the improvement of the accommodation of the military school at Quebec. Quebec occupies an important position as a military district. Two years ago I was obliged to qualify as a field officer. I went to that school—No. 5 infantry school—and I found it a very serious drawback for the officers who went there to qualify to have to look all over the city for a boarding-house or for lodgings. This was a very serious drawback, and when my course was over I drew the attention of the department to it, and I think there is quite a voluminous correspondence between the District Officer Commanding of Quebec and the department, drawing the attention of the department to this deficiency. Last winter some thirty-five or thirty-six officers of different rural corps of the district of Quebec qualified. They were under the same drawback. The Militia Department has a very fine building and plenty of land right in the heart of the city of Quebec in connection with that regiment, and I would appeal to the minister and to his department that a certain sum of money should be devoted from the numerous millions we have voted here for the enlargement of that school. A man who wants to become efficient in military matters should be right on the spot, and should not only follow three or four hours of a technical course each day, but should have drill constantly under his eyes in the way of guard-mounting, forming of pickets, &c. The only expense would be the extension of the building to give accommodation, probably twenty or twenty-five rooms, a mess room and instruction rooms in the one building. It would not be a very large expenditure, and I would appeal to the minister to find his way clear to enlarge that school in order to take advantage of the spirit we now have in our province. All young men have to battle against a certain drawback and difficulty, that is a full knowledge of the language, but still, on the whole, as General Lake was kind enough to mention when he visited the camp at Lévis this year, our camp was as good as any in the Dominion of Canada, and I think the Minister of Militia could not spend a few hundreds or a few thousands of dollars in a more useful