

they have endeavoured to accomplish the object they have in view in a different way.

Some resolutions reported.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—SERVICE MEDALS.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved the adjournment of the House.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Hon. Sir F. W. Borden). Before the motion is carried, I would ask the privilege of saying a few words in reference to a question which was brought up this evening in my absence. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) notified me the other day that he would ask some questions with reference to the granting of the King's medal to certain Canadians who served in South Africa, and I had prepared myself on the subject; but, unfortunately, I was absent this evening when the matter was brought up. I am sure that the hon. member who brought it up would prefer that the answer should appear in the same number of 'Hansard' as the statement he made. I am at the disadvantage of not having heard the hon. gentleman's statement; but I think I know what the purport of it was. I may premise by saying that the matter is purely an imperial one, and is governed entirely by the regulations of the War Office. These regulations were promulgated by an order of the War Office, dated 1st October, 1902, called Army Order No. 232, which was republished in Canada in Militia Orders on the 28th October, 1902, as No. 246. Without going fully into the details of this order, I may say that the same regulations apply to colonial troops as to the troops of the imperial army; there is no distinction whatever. One of the conditions with reference to the grant of the King's medal is that no one who has not earned or is not entitled to the Queen's medal can receive the King's medal. A further provision is that they shall have seen war service in South Africa, covering 18 months prior to the 1st of June, 1902, and the wording is this: 'Eighteen months war service in South Africa.' Upon this point the whole difficulty has arisen. Certain Canadians have contended that the time of the voyage from Canada, after enlistment and prior to landing in South Africa, ought to be counted. As I have said, the same rule obtains with reference to Canadians as to imperial troops, and the authorities of the War Office have construed the order to mean that the service must be eighteen months war service in South Africa. That is sufficient answer of itself, but I have a memo. prepared by my officers, which I would like to place on 'Hansard':

Memorandum respecting the conditions governing the issue of the King's South African medal.

Mr. SPROULE.

1. It is an error to suppose that individuals who had not served under Her late Majesty can receive both the Queen's and the King's medals.

It requires eighteen months service to qualify for the King's medal, and as only sixteen and a-half months elapsed between the death of the Queen (14th January, 1901) and the termination of the war (31st May, 1902), it is manifestly impossible for any individual to qualify for the medal if he did not put in part of his service under the Queen.

2. The King's medal was bestowed for two objects, viz.:—In recognition of the services rendered by the troops in the later phases of the campaign in South Africa, and to reward those soldiers who, by their long service in the field have brought the war to a successful termination.'

To qualify for the medal the following service is necessary, viz.:—

(a.) To have been actually serving in South Africa on or after the 1st January, 1902, and (b.) that on that date to have completed eighteen months war service, or subsequently completed such service before the 1st June, 1902.

No individual can receive the King's medal without being also entitled to the Queen's. If the whole of his service was under the King, he would be entitled to the Queen's medal not the King's.

Now, I come to the important point. The contention of certain officers and soldiers of the Canadian contingent that they should receive the medal, was sent to the War Office by the government, and an adverse opinion was given. Not being content with that, certain officers petitioned to have the matter referred directly to the Commander in Chief himself. This was done by the government, but, still the same adverse opinion was given. It has been contended that the time occupied going to and returning from South Africa should be reckoned to qualify for the King's medal. The question was submitted to the War Office by the Militia Department and the reply was unfavourable to this contention. An appeal to the Commander in Chief, asking for special consideration, was made. The Commander in Chief's reply, received on the 20th of May last, was that, 'the order should not be relaxed in favour of the above mentioned corps,' i. e. the Canadian corps.

Mr. SPROULE. The contention of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) was that, owing to the increased distance which the colonial troops from Canada had to travel in order to reach South Africa, as compared with the other troops, it was impossible for them to put in the time in South Africa that was required, and that if the attention of the Imperial War Office had been drawn to this fact, the regulations might have been amended.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I do not think it would be correct to say that all the troops from Canada were excluded on account of the distance to South Africa. The first, and I think, the second contingents were there in