

Mr. SPROULE. Then he gets the ordinary pay of his rank during the time he is ill?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. He gets \$1 a day and subsistence.

Mr. SPROULE. Does that cover medical assistance or has he to pay for that out of his allowance?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The pay of his rank and subsistence are the only provision.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. I do not wish to occupy the time of the committee but a very few minutes, but the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence will recollect that earlier in the session I made application to have the papers brought down in connection with the grant of the King's medal to the soldiers who had done a second term of service in South Africa. I am afraid the hon. minister considers this a dead letter, but I can assure him that a great deal of interest exists in the minds of Canadians who had this second term of service and for that reason I would like to bring it to his memory and to the notice of the committee. I think that the present time is perhaps very opportune for doing so because we see in the papers daily that the commander in chief, Lord Roberts, intends visiting Canada shortly and this would be a very suitable time to bring the matter again before him. The order granting this second South African medal, general order No. 110 of November, 1902, reads as follows:

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve that a second war medal, bearing his effigy, shall be granted in recognition of the services rendered by the troops in the latter 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.

Section 3 goes on to state who shall receive this medal and in consideration of what services. It says:

Provided the claims are approved by the commander in chief a medal of silver will be issued to all officers, &c.

(a) Provided they were actually serving in South Africa on or after the 1st of January, 1902.

(b) That on that date they had completed 18 months war service or subsequently completed such service before the first of June, 1902.

I think the Canadians who did a second term of service in South Africa conform to these requirements, and I am told by very good authority that these claims were approved by the commander in chief and recommended to the War Office. As to whether these Canadians were actually serving in South Africa on or after the 1st of January, 1902, there is no doubt whatever, and the only question which arises is as to the interpretation of the phrase: 'That

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on that date they had completed 18 months' war service.' In my opinion the War Office has placed a very illiberal interpretation on these words, in holding that they required a Canadian to do 18 months' actual service in South Africa. The war service of a citizen soldier of this country should begin from the time he lays down his professional or other duties to enlist in a regiment for active service abroad. No matter whether the first few weeks of that service are spent in Ottawa for purposes of organization or in Halifax for embarkation, his term begins when he enters the service of the empire and when his South African pay begins. The War Office was pleased to grant two other medals in Canada. After the Fenian Raid it was pleased to grant two other medals in Canada. Then there was no distinction drawn between the home guard and those who actually served at the front; in fact a great many men who never left their homes were recognized in this respect the same as the men who fought at Pigeon Hill. After the Northwest rebellion there was no such illiberal interpretation placed on war service and actual service in the field or at the front, other service, because every one under arms in and west of Port Arthur got the Northwest medal. In both these instances medals were given to Canadians for simply protecting their homes and firesides, and it is strange that when from a mere matter of sentiment or patriotism Canadians go to the other end of the world to fight for the empire, they should not receive this acknowledgment. I do not wish to criticise the department for I believe it is not responsible. I am sure the minister has done a great deal to carry out the wishes of the men who have not received this medal, but I do think that if the medal claims' list had been forwarded directly from the commanding officers to the War Office without being sent back with instructions that they were not entitled to this medal, more prompt action would have been taken as it was without the province of the department to adjudicate on matters of an imperial nature, being simply the channel of communication between these officers and the War Office. I think the present time would be opportune to bring this matter to the attention of the commander in chief, especially as we hear he is likely to visit Canada, and I trust that the Minister of Militia will do so because at least 25 per cent of the Canadians who went out in the latter stages of the campaign and who were instrumental in bringing the war to a successful termination are interested in this matter.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. This question has been before the House on at least three occasions, and two years ago I read to the House the papers on the subject which my hon. friend will find in 'Hansard.' My hon. friend (Mr. Worthington) is quite correct in saying that this is not a matter