

being prepared, and will probably be laid on the table within two or three days. It would be much more convenient to have the matter discussed after the return is laid on the table.

Mr. WORTHINGTON asked :

1. Have any accidents occurred in the Royal Northwest mounted police in connection with the use of the Ross rifle ?
2. If so, where, and on what dates did the accidents occur ?
3. What are the names of the parties injured ?
4. What was the nature of the injury, and how long was the party or parties confined to the hospital ?
5. Has the government any record or report of such accident or accidents ?
6. If so, what is the nature of such report, and by whom was it sent in ?

Hon. Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister of Militia). The same answer to this question.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. I do not think that the returns asked for would cover these questions.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I assure my hon. friend that the return will include every thing down to the date at which it is laid on the table.

Mr. FOSTER. The questions will then stand I suppose, Mr. Speaker ?

Mr. SPEAKER. I understand the reply to be that the return ordered by the House will bring down all the information asked for.

Mr. BERGERON. There can be no harm in letting the question stand.

#### ANNUAL DRILL—LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mr. WORTHINGTON asked :

1. Referring to militia orders, February 9, 1907, number 34, under section 1, a clause respecting the annual leave of civil servants, is it the intention of the government to restrict the privilege *re* annual drill and camps to civil servants in the inside departments only, or to extend the same privileges to the outside service as well ?
2. Is the government aware that members of the outside service attending annual drill and camp have the time expended in so doing deducted from their annual leave ?

Hon. Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister of Militia). The question of leave of absence for civil servants who are members of the militia in excess of their annual leave, to enable them to perform annual training in camp, was brought to the attention of the Department of Militia and Defence by other departments of the Public Service at Ottawa, and the approval of His Excellency the Governor General for such leave was obtained and notified in militia order No. 34 of February 9 last.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN.

The order provides such leave for the inside service only, but there is no reason why it should not be extended to the outside service if, after a trial, it has been found to be in the public interest.

#### BOUNTIES ON CRUDE PETROLEUM.

Mr. T. CHISHOLM asked :

What amount of money has been paid in bounties up to the present time on crude petroleum ?

Hon. WILLIAM PATERSON (Minister of Customs) :

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1904-05 . . . . .          | \$350,047 17 |
| 1905-06 . . . . .          | 291,157 20   |
| 1906-07 to date (Feb. 27). | 203,963 24   |

\$845,167 61

This was answered the other day, when the above figures were given, representing payments to February 28. Now the hon. gentleman wants payments for February 28 to that ?

Mr. T. CHISHOLM. That will do.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—THE QUEBEC 'SOLEIL.'

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE (Montmagny). (Translation). Mr. Speaker, before the House takes up the notices of motion, I wish to raise a question of privilege. The 'Soleil' of February 28 last, contained an editorial entitled 'Another avatar,' which read as follows :

Another avatar.

In Ottawa yesterday, Mr. Dubeau, M.P., repudiated most positively and unreservedly, the statements concerning Mr. Fielding, attributed to him in an article which appeared in the 'Nationaliste,' on Sunday last.

As for us, we did not think it necessary to call attention to the evidently false stories circulated by the above paper, being satisfied that the people would not be fooled by such tittle-tattle.

However, it is very fortunate, indeed, that Mr. Dubeau should have deemed it worth while to call attention to these slanders and should have repudiated them most unreservedly in the House, not so much on account of those stupid concoctions themselves, as on account of the facts brought out in connection with his protest.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Armand Lavergne acknowledged having written the article in the 'Nationaliste' to which exception was taken, and admitted that he had written it on information supplied to him by reliable people.

I refrain from reading to the House the remainder of the article, which contains abuse regarding myself. I understand that the 'Soleil' has called attention to that incident in order to have people think that I make use of confidential information as contributions to the 'Nationaliste.' That is not so. The facts which I stated had come to my knowledge through various and public channels, and are on the whole abso-