

hon. member opposite, including the member for St. John, ridiculed the suggestion. We were talking utter nonsense when we spoke of the war cloud hovering over Europe. They ridiculed the idea of war coming and did not want us to make any preparation for the effective carrying on of our part in this great struggle. It is true that the price of food products is high, but I will venture the statement that during the winter which has just closed, taking into consideration the wages paid, the demand for labour in almost every walk that you could speak of, at high prices, and the cost of foodstuffs, there has been less actual distress in the centres of population in the Dominion of Canada than there has been during any winter in the last ten or fifteen years. And if you are considering the question of the high cost of living and foodstuffs and all that sort of thing, it is only fair to consider the ability of the population to pay the prices which are being demanded at the present time, as well as to inquire into the real causes for the prices being high. But I believe that during the last winter and at the present time there has been, as I have said, less distress throughout the Dominion of Canada because of the high cost of living than there has been in this country in the last fifteen or twenty years.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It is now eleven o'clock. We have had a very interesting discussion and perhaps we might pass an item and adjourn.

Mr. CROTHERS: I do not know whether hon. gentlemen opposite desire to discuss the other three items? There are only three others.

Mr. GRAHAM: But they are fraught with great significance. I should not like to have to reply to the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) to-night, for instance. I would suggest that we pass item 265 and adjourn. We have worked pretty hard.

Progress reported.

On motion of Sir Thomas White the House adjourned at 11 o'clock p.m.

Monday, April 24, 1917.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

PAY OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN OVERSEAS FORCES.

Sir EDWARD KEMP (Minister of Militia): I desire to present an amended return with respect to the pay of Members of Parliament serving in the Overseas Forces. In the return as presented to the House there was a clerical error, the effect of which was to show that Lt.-Col. W. F. Cockshutt was drawing separation allowance and pay. As a matter of fact, he has drawn neither separation allowance nor pay from the Government. The figures should have appeared immediately opposite the name of the officer preceding his, on the return.

Mr. GRAHAM: What officer was that?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Lieut. Carroll.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO moved:

That the Public Accounts and the Report of the Auditor General for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1916, be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Motion agreed to.

NATIONAL SERVICE CARDS.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. EDWARDS: Yesterday a question of which I had given notice, relating to National Service cards, was put, and the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) gave what is supposed to be an answer. I do not know who prepared the answer, nor where he got his information. It is given at page 702 of yesterday's Hansard. I would draw the attention of the minister to the fact that in this answer the second part of the question is entirely ignored.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The information came from the National Service Commission. I shall draw the attention of the Director of National Service to the observations of my hon. friend.

ENLISTED CIVIL SERVANTS.

PAY AND SEPARATION ALLOWANCE.

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir EDWARD KEMP (Minister of Militia and Defence): The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Sinclair) and the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) each asked questions yesterday, the first with regard to Civil Service enlistment and statutory increases of pay, and the second with regard to Civil Service enlistments and separation