

HOLIDAY FOR OVERSEAS FORCES.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. CHARLES MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of asking a question, may I direct the attention of the right hon. the leader of the Government (Sir Robert Borden) to a cable despatch which appeared in all papers on Thursday last, the 13th inst., and which is as follows:

Adelaide, South Australia, Sept. 13--The Director General of Recruiting states that arrangements have been made to send 50,000 of the original Australians home for the holidays, irrespective of whether similar reinforcements are sent. The Director General believes that the visit of these gallant men will give a great stimulus to recruiting.

I would like to ask my right hon. friend if he has any information in regard to the subject of this cablegram; if so will he communicate it to the House, and whether any such steps as that which is alleged to have been taken by the Australian Government is contemplated by this Government with reference to the Canadian troops?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: We have no official confirmation of the particulars of this despatch. I shall make inquiry by cable and ascertain whether there is any foundation for it.

EXEMPTION TRIBUNALS.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. GAUVREAU: According to news received from my riding, the judge is under the impression that the person to be chosen for appointment to the local tribunal must have residence in the place selected for the tribunal. Is that the law, or can he be chosen from another place than his place of residence?

Mr. DOHERTY: The law makes no provision requiring that a man should be taken from the locality. It is a matter for the judge in making the appointment to appreciate the qualifications of the man. If I were asked for a personal opinion, I should say that, generally speaking, a thoroughly competent local man might present advantages that another would not.

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

REGULATIONS AS TO OFFICERS ON LEAVE IN CANADA.

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir EDWARD KEMP (Minister of Militia): The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald), on Saturday, inquired whether [Sir Edward Kemp.]

any new order had been made regarding officers who had returned from overseas and who wished to return to civil life. The only militia order that could possibly have any bearing on that question was issued on June 26, 1917. A circular letter has also been sent out, bearing date 29th August, 1917.

Mr. MACDONALD: Perhaps the minister would read the circular letter.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: It reads:

Department of Militia and Defence.

Circular Letter.

Ottawa, 29th August, 1917.

(H.Q. 54-21-50-44.)

From—The Adjutant General, Canadian Militia.

To—All Officers Commanding Districts.

Retention of officers in Canada on leave.

Sir,—I have the honour, by direction, to inform you that the following cable has been received from the C.O.M.F. authorities overseas:—

"Do 1266—August 15th—Owing to number of officers now available here considered officers now on leave in Canada number approximately 250 should be given opportunity of being retained for duty there or to resume civil occupation if they so desire. Not desirable in my opinion officers on leave on medical grounds should be returned unless fit for general service expiration of leave. Requested names of officers retained should be cabled this headquarters."

2. In view of this cable it is requested that you will please furnish Militia Headquarters, as soon as possible, the names of all those officers, C.E.F., at present in Canada on leave from overseas, and who are still on the strength of the C.O.M.F., who wish to return overseas, and those who wish to remain in Canada.

3. With regard to those who remain in Canada, it should be explained to them that, if possible, they will be given further employment but if you have no employment available for them they will be struck off the strength of the C.E.F., and, if eligible, transferred to the strength of the C.E.F. Reserve from the date on which their leave expires.

4. It is requested that in ascertaining the opinions of the officers in the District under your command that the purport of the cable received from England, and the whole matter should be made clear to them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) W. E. Hodgins, Major General,
Acting Adjutant General.

PRIVATE BILLS.

GORDON DIVORCE BILL NOT REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE.

Resuming the debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Edwards, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 126, intituled: "An Act for the relief