

seas services have, shortly after their arrival in France, written their parents at home that they have assigned their pay, but no payments have been made to those in whose favour the assignments have been drawn. I took the matter up with the officials of the department, and I am bound to say that they manifested every courtesy and determination to investigate thoroughly all those causes of complaint. In every case I find that the difficulty does not exist in the Militia Department here, but, in some way or another, the trouble is on the other side. In many cases months and months have elapsed without a single dollar being paid to the parents of those men. After taking the matter up with the department, I have been able to get the assigned pay to begin from the time I made the complaint, but the back pay which has been assigned has never been handed over to the parents. There must, therefore, be some laxity, no doubt due to the large quantity of business of that character which has to be dealt with.

It is a great disappointment to the parents of these men that the pay which has been assigned to them by their sons overseas is not being regularly paid. In cases where it is ultimately discovered that there was an assignment, there is no reason why the pay that was withheld should not be paid from the date from which the assignment was made effective. I desire to call the minister's attention to this, because cases of this kind are very numerous and are becoming more numerous every day. If there is any way of getting a better line on that particular branch of the work of the Militia Department in London it is eminently desirable that steps should be taken without delay.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Is my hon. friend speaking of the unmarried or the married man?

Mr. KYTE: The unmarried.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The unmarried man is not obliged to assign his pay, and very frequently does not do so until his regimental paymaster perhaps draws his attention to some inquiries that have been made from this side. Cases such as my hon. friend has mentioned will always occur, of course, but it must be borne in mind that they are very few in number compared with the thousands of cases that are handled without any hitch at all. The complaints are certainly not as numerous proportionately as they have been in the past.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES: A good many complaints have come to myself, and so far as my experience goes, I wish to bear testimony to the fact that all the officials in the Department of Militia and Defence are very anxious to do the best they can, and that has been particularly noticeable during the last five or six months. One cannot help remarking on the courtesy and the desire on the part of the minister and his officers to have all these cases straightened out.

To cover hire of motor cars for Major General Hughes, then Minister of Militia and Defence, during his visits to England and France in 1912, 1913 and 1915, \$3,194.13.

Mr. KYTE: There was an item for \$6,000 covering the cost of motor cars for the minister and those associated with him in his trip to Europe in 1913. How is it necessary to have another item of this amount to cover the same expenditure?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: This item is to cover a bill which has been certified as correct, which has been accumulating with the Wolseley Motor Car Company during the years 1912, 1913 and 1915.

Mr. OLIVER: What was wrong with 1914?

Mr. CARVELL: Has this anything to do with that famous junketing trip? Is the minister quite sure that he is not mixing up some motor cars in Ottawa with some on the other side? Any one who lives in Ottawa and watches the string of beautiful motor cars that drive up to the Chateau and the well-groomed gentlemen, and sometimes ladies, who get into them, all driven by men in uniform, might be pardoned for the suspicion that part of this amount should be charged to Ottawa instead of to the other side. But possibly the item is all right.

Monuments on battlefields—Grant to Women's Wentworth Historical Society towards the preservation of the monuments at Stoney Creek, \$125.

Mr. COPP: I wish to direct the minister's attention for a moment to some battlefields in different portions of the province of New Brunswick. Some years ago the question of preserving and taking care of the old forts in the province of New Brunswick and elsewhere in the Dominion was brought up in the House. My hon. friend from Cumberland (Mr. Rhodes) and the late Mr. Emmerson succeeded in getting some expenditure made on Fort Beausejour, and having the premises fenced in. I

9 p.m. have been recently informed by a letter from the Daughters of