

to the time at which returns are brought down. I know that in doing so he will be accommodating a great number of members on both sides of the House, of course more on the opposition side because we move for a greater number of returns than do members on the government side. This will tend to facilitate the work of the House, it will be a great assistance to those who are discharging a very important duty, and it will prevent us from having to take up time in making inquiries about returns.

Mr. BLAIN. We had a case in point only yesterday. My hon. friend from West Hastings (Mr. Porter) asked for a certain return that had been ordered by the House. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Brodeur) at once spoke up and said that it had been laid on the table several days ago. Surely, it would not be very much trouble for a department, when it had a return ready to be laid upon the table, to notify the member who had made the motion.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is done to-day; the minister who brings the return asks for leave to lay on the table the return to the order of the House of such and such a date, containing such and such information and moved for by Mr. So and So. Then it is recorded in the Votes and Proceedings. But, it is not worth while to take up time in the discussion of a difference of this kind. If it is more convenient the government will be only too glad to oblige members of the House.

TREATMENT OF COLOURED PEOPLE.

Mr. O. J. WILCOX (North Essex). Mr. Speaker, for the reason that on three different occasions during this session the question of the colour line being drawn in a department of the government has been brought up in this House, I desire to ask my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) a question or two. As a result of the matter being considered, I have received a communication from one of my coloured constituents asking what all this talk is about, and if it is true that my hon. friend is drawing the colour line in his department. I desire to say that I would be very much opposed to the government pursuing such a course. My hon. friend from St. John (Mr. Daniel) brought before the House the fact that one George Simpson, of Toronto, who had passed a very difficult examination for a position in the Naval Department, whose character was most creditable, of whom the president of the Young Men's Christian Association, according to the Ottawa 'Free Press,' had spoken of as a most admirable young man, was not given the position to which his examination had entitled him, but was transferred to the Department of Agriculture. I have also been informed by my hon. friend from

Grenville (Mr. Reid) that some time ago a young coloured man applied for a position in the Census Department. He was also transferred to the Department of Agriculture. I know of my own certain knowledge that last session the Rev. Mr. Hackett, who I was informed was a bishop of the Episcopal Methodist Church for the province of Ontario, who has sixteen different churches under his charge, was ruthlessly and indiscriminately ejected from the corridors of this House. That would lead me to the conclusion that the colour line was being drawn. To give the history of the coloured people would be a rather difficult task. Facts and dates are the language in which any race of people write their history, and for the reason that the facts and dates relating to the coloured people have not been preserved, I regret to say, as well as they should have been, we have not before us their complete history. But, we have the history of the coloured people for the past 47 years since they were emancipated, and it is no exaggeration to say that no race in the world has made greater moral and intellectual progress since then. The United States government have acknowledged the value of the coloured people in the army, and Brigadier General J. C. Gilmore, referring to their services in the Spanish-American war, writes:

The expedition thus formed was placed under command of Major General Shafter. Notwithstanding the limited time to equip and organize an expedition of this character, there was never displayed a nobler spirit of patriotism and fortitude on the part of officers and men going forth to maintain the honour of this country. After encountering the vicissitudes of an ocean voyage, they were obliged to disembark on a foreign shore and immediately engage in an aggressive campaign. Under drenching storms, intense and prostrating heat, within a fever afflicted district, with little comfort or rest, either by day or night, they pursued their purpose of finding and conquering the enemy. Many of them, trained in the severe experience of the great war, and in frequent campaigns on the western plains, officers and men alike exhibited a great skill, fortitude, and tenacity with result which have added a new chapter of glory to their country's history.

Medals of honour and certificates of merit were granted to coloured soldiers for distinguished services in the Cuban campaign, as follows:

Dennis Bell, Fitz Lee, Wm. H. Tompkins, Geo. H. Wanton, James Bates, Scott Crosby, Edward Davis, J. Elliott, Benjamine Fasit, O. Gaither, G. W. Goff, J. Graham, Abram Hagen, H. T. Herbert, Adam Houston, J. Jackson, Elisha Jackson, Peter Jackson, C. W. Jefferson, P. McCoun, Loney Moore, Oscar Oden, Wm. Payne, G. W. Pumphrey, James Satchell, L. Smith, Wm. Thornton, J. Walker, John T. Williams, R. Williams.

It seems to me that no better evidence can be given of the devotion of a citizen to