

Mr. KYTE: Is it the rule of the department to continue overseas pay to officers after their return from overseas?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: That has been the rule. They are temporarily employed until they receive their discharge.

Mr. PROULX: I see in the newspapers that over a hundred officers have come back from England without going to the front. They would not go to France as privates. Will these officers get their discharge?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Yes, they are being discharged all the time—hundreds of them—upon their return to Canada.

Mr. PROULX: Will they be liable to service under the Military Service Act?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I will have to refer my hon. friend to the Act; some might and some might not. Off-hand, I should not want to speak with authority in the matter.

Compensation to Mrs. Mary Hannon for loss of her husband who received injuries while employed as foreman at Valcartier Camp, which caused his death, including \$25 for medical and funeral expenses, \$2,025.

Mr. OLIVER: Is this the sum usually allowed in such cases?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: In the absence of a Dominion law or a central authority governing such matters, the Pensions and Claims Board recommend that, under the provisions of the revised statutes of the province of Quebec, 1909, there be paid to the widow, Mrs. Mary Hannon, in full compensation, the sum of \$2,000 and that she be further paid the sum of \$25 for medical and funeral expenses in connection with the death of her late husband.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: You are paying just what would have been recovered under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Yes.

Mr. OLIVER: The department, then, proceeds upon some system in regard to the payment of death claims?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Yes, the Compensation Act of the province in question.

Mr. OLIVER: Of course, the Compensation Act of the province does not really govern the case.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: It is a basis upon which to act.

Mr. OLIVER: The department establishes as a principle that they accept the terms of the Compensation Act of the provinces in case of death?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The Act is used as a basis for compensation.

Mr. OLIVER: The Militia Department, of course, not being under the control of the provinces, can accept the provincial law as a basis and yet, in the superstructure raised on that basis, not come altogether close to the provincial law. I am asking only for information. If I am to understand the minister as saying that they, in effect, adopt the provincial law, then I understand. But if he says: We use the provincial law as a basis, then I do not understand.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The provincial law is used as a basis or a guide on which to settle such claims. These claims come before the Pensions or Claims Board and are adjudicated by the Board. The awards are made in that manner.

Mr. OLIVER: It is not the Provincial Compensation Act that governs, but the Pensions Board?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: No, the provincial law is used as a basis or guide.

Mr. OLIVER: Therefore, as a matter of fact, there is no standard. The award is whatever the Pensions Board may decide?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Yes.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: If it is the departmental policy to compensate dependents for injuries caused to persons while in the service of the department, that means the adoption of a very wide rule. I have had some correspondence with the minister about the case of a man in Halifax who was engaged in doing some work on the forts. While he was so engaged, there was a premature explosion of powder, and he lost the sight of both eyes. That case would be just as strong as this could be.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Did my hon. friend take it up with the department?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Yes, with the minister himself.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: With my predecessor?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No, with the present Minister of Militia, but I do not, of course, anticipate that he is dealing with the matter personally. I think, in a case of that kind, such a person is entitled to some compensation because he is unable to work and never again will be able to return to his former occupation. It is true he has not lost his life, as did the husband