

relieve the officers and men of some of the expense and annoyance that they are put to for the want of such an equipment. I trust that the new Minister will take this matter into his consideration, and, I think, by means of a reorganization and a better way of doing business, he will be able to give better satisfaction in the future.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The discussion has taken a somewhat wider range than the item we are considering, and I come back to the subject under consideration. I desire to speak in somewhat of a subdued tone this time, as it appears that the last time I addressed the Minister he seemed to be so afraid that I would bring down the House upon his head, that he was unable to answer the question I put to him. He has referred us to the particulars of the vote to be found in Appendix No. 3 in this report, a matter of some \$75,000. He tells us that he has applications for more than double the amount, but he has cut it down one-half. Well, the question is whether it is wise, under these circumstances, to reduce the grant \$5,000, as he asks us to do. I suppose he has given it consideration. But the point I suggest is this, if the Minister will bear with me in suggesting it, as it may be a new departure in his report. I understand that the different military officers send in requests with reference to the different sheds and stores, and I would suggest that in his next report these requests should be published in a concise form, detailing the repairs that were required to the different properties and works of the department throughout the Dominion. Then, next year, we will have an appendix to his report, like this report No. 3, of his architect, detailing the work that has been done in the way of repairing, &c. The House would then be able to examine this report in the light of the requests and the representations made by those reporting on various buildings throughout the Dominion, and to judge as to whether the Minister had, with the amount of money placed at his disposal, expended it at the different points and on the buildings that stood in the greatest need. We would then be able to determine whether the money had been expended on works which might have been deferred for a year or two, while more pressing claims had been passed over. I have pointed out cases where there was an absolute necessity for the care of arms and Government property that there should be an expenditure made, and I pointed out that this has not been done, but money has been expended on ornamenting and repairing other buildings, expenditures right and proper in themselves, but which should not have been made when there were buildings requiring repairs, absolutely unfit for use and in which Government property was not protected. The suggestion I make is a practical one. I am not finding fault; but I suggest that if the Minister would bring

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

down these reports as to repairs that are necessary on the different buildings throughout the Dominion, then, on an examination of those reports, hon. members would be able to commend or criticise the Minister's action. Appendix No. 3 contains particulars of the drill sheds and other Government properties that have been repaired during the year, but we do not know what representations have been made with respect to other property on which nothing has been done. I desire to obtain this information, which I think will prove useful to the House, as enabling hon. members to form a proper conception as to the administration of the money voted to the department.

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). I think the suggestion is a very sensible and practical one. It may largely increase the volume of next year's report, but I will bring down the information to the House. I propose to furnish information respecting all the properties occupied by the Militia Department, the architect's report as to their condition and the Adjutant-General's report as to necessary repairs.

Warlike and other Stores, \$66,700

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) From this vote, I presume, saddlery and boots and shoes will have to be provided. Perhaps the Minister will explain how boots and saddlery are purchased; if by tender, who are the successful tenderers this year?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). I cannot give the hon. gentleman the information he asks about saddlery. Boots and shoes are supplied in this manner: The matter is placed in the hands of the commandants of the several districts, and they obtain local tenders for boots and shoes, and where the articles have not been of a satisfactory character, such as has been referred to by the Major-General in his report, they have been returned and a new issue obtained from the contractor. All the contracts in connection with the Militia Department will be by public tender, duly advertised in the public press.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Does the present Minister possess the same antagonism to Great Britain as his predecessor has manifested to-night? Is that the policy adopted by the new Minister? The late Minister has deprecated having any dealings with England in connection with military stores; he spoke of it as being almost a disloyal and terrible offence. Is that the policy of the new Minister of the department?

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) In view of the statement made in the General's report as to the condition of the boots and shoes, it is obvious that in the public interest the present system should not be continued. The General has made a very serious indictment. He has stated that several of the boots and shoes were of the consistency of paper, a disgraceful condition of things.