

before I got across the field. That property is absolutely unsuited for a barracks site. Moreover, a large portion of that land on the south side of the river is now required for the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, and some thirty or forty acres of it has been handed over to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: For what purpose is it required by the 5 p.m. Harbour Commission of Montreal?

Mr. HUGHES: I have handed it over to the Marine Department; I do not know what they are going to use it for.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Did the minister part with it without knowing for what purpose?

Mr. HUGHES: It was for the purpose of the harbour commissioners.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Yes, but what do the harbour commissioners want with it?

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Perhaps it is for the navy.

Mr. HUGHES: It may have been for raising ducks for aught I know. It goes without saying that a school of instruction is wanted for the militia of the city of Montreal. In making inquiries as to the prices of property, I was told that the old Crawford farm on the Lachine road, nine miles out of Montreal, could not be bought for less than \$2,500 or \$3,000 an acre; I found that property at the Back river could not be purchased for less than \$1,800 or \$2,000 an acre. I visited a dozen different properties there, without any one knowing my purpose, and learned the prices asked for them. On the Lachine road they were asking upwards of \$2,500 an acre for property; around Lachine, the property was \$3,000 per acre; down at Pointe aux Trembles, the remote end of the island, property was valued at about \$1,200 an acre (more than we paid for the Dorval property); and at Montreal West, properties were valued at over \$4,000 an acre. In not one solitary instance, except in the case of the Back River property, could we get a large enough area for our purpose. I consulted two of the most respectable and most distinguished officers of the service, Colonel Labelle of Montreal, and Colonel Wilson. I accept full responsibility for everything these gentlemen have done, and I have no fear whatever on the result of any inquiry into any

action taken in this matter. These are two gentlemen of the very highest standing; and I believe an investigation will show their good sound judgment. This property lies on lake St. Louis and the Forest and Stream Club occupy a part of the front of it. The property is traversed by a splendid automobile road, by four railway tracks, and a boulevard is going to be constructed through the northern end of it, and in a very short time the electric railway will be there. If the hon. member (Mr. Lemieux) consults the time table, he will find it is ten miles from the Grand Trunk station and nine miles from the Canadian Pacific station, to Dorval. I am sure my good hon. friend will agree with me that he would sooner go to Dorval by train or electric car, than he would go to the property located between St. Lambert and Longueuil, at Montreal South, and to reach which you have to cross the Grand Trunk bridge and go a roundabout way. The Dorval property is only five miles from Montreal West and four miles from Montreal Junction.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Montreal Junction is far from Montreal.

Mr. HUGHES: It is five miles from Montreal. If the hon. gentleman does not know the geography of his own city any better than that, I do not see how he can be expected to know much about the geography of the country. When the property was purchased I was advised to consult Mr. Charles W. Robertson and Mr. James Baillie about its value. Perhaps my hon. friend knows these two gentlemen but I would not know them if I met them on the street. I was told on independent authority that C. W. Robertson and James Baillie were two of the safest valuers in Montreal, and Mr. Baillie valued the property at \$205,500 and Mr. Robertson valued it at \$235,500. I can tell my hon. friend that the property adjoining this property is valued at \$200 more an acre than we paid, and with all due respect to him I can tell him that he cannot get a piece of land within ten miles of this property for \$600 an acre, in any suitable locality. A gentleman named F. H. Shaw has put the present value of the property at \$1,400 an acre or \$219,800, and Mr. Robertson confirms his former valuation and believes there is a prospect of an early advance in price, but owing to the financial stringency during the last year he thinks it might not be sold readily at the present moment. I do not know that the hon. gentleman (Mr.