

stable. The plans have been drawn for a wooden building one story high and about 150 feet long by 25 feet wide.

Mr. SPROULE. This has no connection with the military college?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No, this is for the field battery, Royal Canadian Artillery.

Mr. CLARKE. Part of the permanent force?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Yes. The conclusion of the inquiry made was that if we were to maintain this force, we must have stables for the horses. The present conditions are very unsatisfactory.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the whole expected to cost? There was a vote of \$5,000 last year.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. That was voted several years, I believe, but it was not used. The difficulty was to procure a suitable site. One has been secured at \$5,000 which is satisfactory to the military college, the citizens and the permanent corps. It was originally held at \$8,000.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the size if it?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I cannot give the exact size, but it is a good big piece of land.

Mr. SPROULE. From whom was it purchased?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I think from a widow, a Mrs. Garvin.

Mr. SPROULE. This does not look to be exactly a business like way of doing it. It is usual, when the House is to be committed to an expenditure to give us the means of judging what the whole is likely to be, and not call upon us year after year for several small sums.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) but the circumstances in this case are peculiar, the work having been delayed owing to the difficulty of procuring a site. But I have given the nature of the building and I should think it could be built for about \$6,000. That is an estimate of my own. But I think the chief architect would agree with me.

Mr. SPROULE. I suppose in the absence of better information we must take what we get.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Carried.

Mr. LANCASTER. Before we go on with the next item I wish to ask one or two questions with regard to the Cobourg armoury, for which \$8,000 was voted last night just as we were about to adjourn, but with the understanding that further questions might be asked with regard to it. I wish to know

whether the government is buying that site or whether the town is giving it; and, if the government is buying it, what is the price?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. I understand we have a drill hall there which is not satisfactory as to site. It is the intention of the government to dispose of that property and build in a more suitable place. The site has been bought for \$4,000.

Mr. LANCASTER. The town is not doing anything towards a site?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No.

Mr. SPROULE. What will the Cobourg armoury cost when completed? With this vote, you will have \$20,000 at your disposal.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The original estimate was \$15,000 but since that time the headquarters of the Durham Field Battery have moved to Cobourg. This makes it necessary to provide more accommodation in the armoury. But the amount voted we expect will complete the work.

Mr. SPROULE. And give accommodation to the battery as well as—

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. As well as to the 40th battalion.

Mr. SPROULE. Has the old armoury been sold?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. No.

Mr. OSLER. What is the reason of the changing of the site? Surely, in a town like Cobourg, the question of a site is not so important as to make it advisable to put up a new building. What is the reason for buying a new site when the government has the old one?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. Because the old one was not suitable for the purpose either in location or in size.

Mr. OSLER. But in a town like Cobourg, surely there is not such great difference between one site and another.

Mr. SPROULE. Was there not something behind that? I think there was some discussion about this last year, and I thought then there was a nigger in the fence somewhere. I think we ought to get some further information about this, and I suggest that it be allowed to stand.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. The request was made to the Department of Public Works by the Department of Militia. I am aware that the local officers were a long time asking for the accommodation. I have no knowledge of any local differences of any kind, or that there is any objection to a settlement. I understand from the Militia Department that everything is satisfactorily settled.

Hon. Mr. SUTHERLAND.