

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Speaking from memory, there is some application about a rifle range in Sydney. The rifle men of Sydney have provided a range of their own; I do not remember whether they want us to take that over or to buy a better range. I shall send down a man to report. I can assure my hon. friend that all applications of that sort have my hearty sympathy. I am prepared at any time to come down to the House and face all adverse criticisms for the erection of these drill halls all over the country. I believe they are very necessary in the interest of the country.

Mr. CARROLL. There will be no adverse criticism of the minister from the people of Sydney.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Inverness). I would ask the minister if anything has been done with regard to erecting an armoury in the town of Inverness? Last year I made an application to the late minister, and he sent an engineer down to report. I have seen the report. It appears that a certain site was recommended by this engineer, but I have received no further information. I would ask the minister if it is his intention to erect this armoury in the town of Inverness. It is as necessary there as in any other part of the country. He will find as good militia material in the county of Inverness as he can find in any other place in Canada.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Judging by the appearance of the hon. gentleman and his friends from that part of the country, it seems to be inhabited by a splendid race. I do not know the details about Inverness. I think an application has been made for an armoury. It would not take over \$15,000 for a company armoury, and it would come out of this vote.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Inverness). I wish to emphasize the fact that an application has been made. The town of Inverness is a growing mining town, with a population of about 4,000.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). There are a great many hon. gentlemen who are anxious to get these drill halls and armouries and to get the militia force in proper shape. There are, however, hon. gentlemen who feel called upon to oppose the militia expenditure, but let me call attention to the fact that if we look over the items we could cut down by millions expenditures which are not anything like as essential as the expenditures for drill halls and for the upkeep of the militia. I will ask these hon. gentlemen to look with a pleasant eye upon these expenditures and I am satisfied that

they will see their way clear to give their assistance to the legitimate desire for the erection of drill halls all over the country. It may be said that there is an adverse public opinion in the country, but I would say that that so-called adverse public opinion is something which is not real. I am satisfied that so long as the public are assured that these expenditures are being legitimately carried out they will approve of this determination to have drill halls erected in every part of the country.

Mr. LALOR. I sincerely hope that the Minister of Militia will be sympathetic with the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who are now pleading for drill halls and armouries. We have had some little experience in connection with that. I remember that, when I sat on the other side of the House, I pleaded session after session for a public building in my own town and I never got the sympathetic ear of a minister sitting upon this side to any demands that I might make in that respect. I hope that the Minister of Militia and the Minister of Public Works, who now are sitting upon this side of the House, will have more sympathy with those gentlemen who are now sitting on the other side of the House than they have had with us when they were sitting on this side of the House and that the Minister of Militia and other ministers will use their judgment in putting up buildings, not in little places of 800 or 900 inhabitants, as those hon. gentlemen did but will look to those places which have been suffering for a great many years and have been penalized because they sent a Conservative to parliament.

Salaries and wages, \$168,000.

Mr. CARVELL. I notice here that, for the rank and file of caretakers, \$1.50 a day is allowed, and that the chief caretakers of the large armouries receive as high as \$3 per day. Would the minister tell me how he distinguishes between the ordinary armouries and the larger ones?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am informed that the chief caretakers are employed in large places where there are two or three different regiments or batteries, and that is where the extra charges come in.

Schools of instruction, \$100,000.

Mr. CARVELL. Even at this late hour I think the minister will pardon me if I make one or two brief remarks in connection with these schools of instruction. I am pleased to see that he is increasing this amount and I hope he will, if necessary, increase it to a much greater extent than he is doing at the present time.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am bringing these schools to the doors of the people in place of requiring the people to go to them.