

Mr. MACDONALD. Who is the real estate agent?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Colonel Biggar does all the buying.

Mr. MACDONALD. Have you come to any decision yet as to where you are going?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Not finally decided.

Mr. CARVELL. This item refers to grants to associations and bands. I want my hon. friend to consider the advisability of increasing this item. I have always felt that perhaps one of the greatest pleasures of militiamen is the possession of a good band, I believe a good band is a good recruiting agent. One of the great difficulties of militia organizations is to keep up their band. The hon. gentleman knows that the officers all over the country have to contribute of their own substance, they are asking the municipalities to contribute, and have to get up entertainments to keep up a military band. I think I am safe in saying that once in about five years they go to pieces and have to be re-organized. I think the hon. gentleman might well take out of the millions he is spending a greater sum to assist the bands, and it would be more profitably expended than the money he is spending, for instance, on automobiles.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I have now found the vulnerable point in my hon. friend, he is a lover of music. I have great pleasure in saying to him that his views and mine are in exact harmony, and I will be only too glad to meet his views.

Mr. MACDONALD. What subsidies will my hon. friend give to the pipers?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). It is always a pleasure for me to hear pipe music, although most people dislike it.

Mr. GRAHAM. The minister says his views are in accord with those of my hon. friend from Carleton, N.B., (Mr. Carvell). As my hon. friend from Carleton, N.B., says, it is a difficult thing, particularly in a small place where they don't get many encouragements, for the militia associations to keep up a band. In the town of Brockville we have what is called the 41st Regimental band, I think one of the best bands in the Dominion of Canada. We all contribute a little to keep up this band. Not only is it a splendid thing for the town, but it is a real assistance in recruiting the regiment. I represented to the former Minister of Militia that as these bands were composed of young men, who gave their time free and with very little pay they might well be more liberally supported by the government

without a big drain on the treasury. The young men in these bands are usually mechanics who work hard in the day time, and spend their evenings in practice. In addition to that, they are not ordinary men, because they must have a good deal of musical ability. I think no better addition to the expenditure could be made than to encourage these bands. I hope the minister, in his supplementary estimates, will put in an amount for the encouragement of regimental bands.

Mr. LALOR. And to encourage country bands generally.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I heartily agree with what the hon. gentlemen have said about that. Any one who ever commanded a regiment knows that it is quite an expense to officers and men to keep it up.

Mr. MACLEAN (Halifax). Do the grants go to the leaders of these regimental bands?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I do not know the details. The grant is made to the band, sometimes as much as \$150. However, I will be delighted to meet the wishes of the hon. gentlemen, and I have requested my department to put an item in the estimates for that purpose for another year. I hope now that the hon. gentleman for Carleton, N.B., (Mr. Carvell) and his friends will allow the rest of these items to go through with a sweep.

Mr. MACDONALD. Don't forget the pipers.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Certainly not. I count the pipers as musicians.

Mr. MACDONALD. What do you pay the pipe band?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The 59th Glengarry had a very nice band a few years ago. They received a band allowance.

Mr. MACDONALD. Both of these Highland regiments have regular bands and then they have the pipes. I do not think there has been a special grant in that case. Where there has been a grant it has simply gone for the band itself and not for the pipe music. I would like the minister to take that into consideration.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). There is one important matter that has not been touched on, and that is that the band men have to pay a high duty on instruments coming into this country. Officers of the Highland and other regiments who cannot get their uniforms made in this country have to pay very high duties. I have been endeavouring to make an arrangement on the old basis so that these things will come in free of duty, but the present Minister of Customs, like his predecessor, is invulnerable,