

Department as to where armouries are located. They are located at the headquarters of the battalion, and that will be done regardless of the results of elections. In regard to this particular battalion to which my hon. friend has referred, I have no doubt that what is meant is that the room in Galt has been fitted up at the expense of the Militia Department. Some expenditure has been made, and no doubt the name is included there, because there has been an expenditure. Perhaps the engineer should have been more particular as to the nature of it. That is the reason it is in the list. There has been some expenditure in connection with arm racks, or the means of taking care of the equipment and furniture.

Mr. CLARKE. Was there a site purchased for the erection of a drill hall at Berlin a couple of years ago?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think not.

Mr. CLARKE. I understood the statement was made that there had been.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. CLARKE. In the list of drill halls and central armouries that have been completed during 1901, I notice that the Toronto central armoury is conspicuous by its absence. That hall has not been completed yet, but I am very glad to hear from the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence that it is within the province of the Department of Militia to add to or alter the buildings that have been erected for militia purposes by the Public Works Department.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes.

Mr. CLARKE. We have brought the question of the completion of the Toronto drill hall before the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence and the hon. Minister of Public Works again and again, but there seemed always to be a divided authority. When we appealed to the hon. Minister of Public Works we were referred to the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence, and when we appealed to that hon. gentleman, we were referred by him to his colleague. Now, however, he has made the statement, and I am very glad to hear it from him, that it is quite within the province of the Militia Department to complete a building, to add to a building, or to alter it.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Not to complete.

Mr. CLARKE. We only want him to add the accommodation that is so urgently required, and we shall certainly after this hold the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence himself, and not the hon. Minister of Public Works, responsible if the work is not done with reasonable expedition.

Hon. Mr. BORDEN (King's).

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke) is a little bit astray yet. I understand him to say that the building in Toronto is not completed.

Mr. CLARKE. No.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Therefore, the Public Works Department have not yet got through with their job, and I must refer the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clarke) to the department which undertook the construction of this building to see that they complete it.

Mr. BLAIN. I would like to ask the hon. minister if any provision is made in this grant for the better accommodation of arms in the town of Brampton. This is the matter that was up for consideration last year.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I may say to my hon. friend (Mr. Blain) that under the regulations by which the arms are distributed to the headquarters of companies, a good many armouries that were under consideration will be unnecessary, and I cannot say whether this is one of them or not. What is the number of the hon. gentleman's battalion?

Mr. BLAIN. The 36th Peel Battalion.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have the list here and I will look at it in the meantime and see whether it is included.

Mr. INGRAM. Perhaps it may be well to see what the Major General says on this question of armouries. He says:

I have also observed that where rural regiments have been provided with central armouries, there is a decided leaning on the part of commanding officers to gradually convert their commands into city corps, to the very great detriment of the service, for, however good the city regiments may be, the bulk of our defence force must be the hardy men of our rural units, and anything which has a possibility of weakening that portion of the active militia is, in my opinion, greatly to be deprecated.

I, therefore, recommend that 'central armouries' should cease to be provided for rural regiments, and that, in their stead, plain substantial buildings should be hired, as at present, for company armouries at the company headquarters.

Perhaps that would do away with a lot of the promises that are made by the Public Works Department for political purposes to put up buildings throughout the country. I will be very glad indeed if some of the patronage of that department is wiped out by taking away telegraph lines and armouries from it. If the Public Works Department were shorn of a lot of that patronage, we would have less politics in that department.

Mr. McGOWAN. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence what the policy of the department is in connection with this matter that the hon. member