

of an armoury on political grounds as being too pettifogging to bother about. I am surprised to see my hon. friend descending to that.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am sorry not to have won the esteem of my hon. friend. But these are not officers, these are men who have care of arms, men who are associated with the young fellows who come into the armoury. Take the case at Woodstock. My hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carvell) will not deny that this particular caretaker was one of the best political agents in that community; he was in the drill hall on all occasions, and was thrown into the company of these young men and acted as a political agent among them. I give fair warning that any man who is appointed to such a position hereafter must leave politics aside. But so far as appointing a man to an office goes, other things being equal, I am not going to stand up here and pretend anything to the contrary; all things being equal the man who is appointed to the office will be a Tory. But in promotions in the military service there will be no politics.

Mr. NESBITT. If there was trouble in the country and the men were called out to take the field, would the minister look into their politics?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am sorry that my hon. friend is not in the militia; if he were he would know that caretakers are not called out. They stay at home.

Mr. NESBITT. That may be a smart answer in the minister's opinion, but are they not liable to be called out like any other men?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Yes, the same as my hon. friend is, but not all of them could go.

Mr. NESBITT. I have no doubt that if I were called upon I would have to go, and I would have no doubt that the caretaker would have to go also, with all due deference to my hon. friend. But what I asked him was if the men who are called out will be called out on political lines.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I never said so. The record of the Tory party in the past has been such as to show they would not be. If the hon. gentleman wishes to go into the matter, I do not think I need go any farther back than the expedition to South Africa, when the issues were not determined on the lines of fitness, but were determined largely on the lines of politics.

Mr. MACDONALD. I hope the minister is very clear about his position. As I understand it, when it comes to caretakers

Mr. MACDONALD.

and officials of that kind, he is to apply the political rule while with regard to other branches of the service fitness is the qualification.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). No, fitness is the first qualification for a caretaker.

Mr. MACDONALD. Then why did you dismiss my friend from Carleton, N.B.?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Because he was an active partisan.

Mr. MACDONALD. But he was a good man.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). But he goes if he is just an active partisan, just the same if he had been a Tory.

Mr. MACDONALD. You do it to Tories as well as to Grits?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Certainly; the man who neglects his business for politics goes.

Mr. MACDONALD. Both?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Yes.

Annual drill, \$1,730,000.

Mr. NESBITT. May I ask the minister for an explanation of the enormous increase here?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). If I had taken the estimates of my predecessor in office the amount this year would have been, not \$1,730,000, but \$2,200,000. I reduced that by the sum of \$470,000. However, it is only fair to explain that the infantry corps for this year train for twelve days. The cavalry, artillery, engineers and all other corps train for sixteen days and there is a large increase in the sum required under that heading. The flat rate of fifty cents a day has been increased to seventy-five cents a day and the opportunity is given to the soldier to earn efficiency pay and perform other service thus increasing the sum to \$1 per day. These items, figured up, make the total amount.

Mr. NESBITT. One dollar a day will be the maximum?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). One dollar a day will be the maximum. In that is also included a sum for transporting and maintaining cadet corps in camp. Therefore, although the sum of \$1,730,000 is \$470,000 less than if the original estimate had been maintained, it will still provide for the training of 40,000 cadets in camp, for four days' additional pay for the cavalry, artillery, and infantry, and, in addition to that, drilling the city corps. That is giving the city corps, who never have an opportunity of manoeuvring, a period of four or five days in camp, and, of course,