

of those barracks at the Longueuil site opposite Montreal, a site which already belonged to the Government and which would have obviated this expenditure? I would also like to know who gave the instructions? Were they given by my hon. friend the Minister of Militia, by a Militia Department clerk or by some Montreal officers?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: If the hon. gentleman will tell us what instructions, I would be glad to answer him.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I want to know who gave the instructions for changing this site from Longueuil to Dorval, and to whom they were given? Also the date of those instructions and if any recommendations were made by the department or by my hon. friend officially; and whether a report has been made in writing by the officers in Montreal, and whether that report has been considered by the hon. gentleman and by the military experts of his department? I want to know what the Government intends to do with the property at Longueuil, and whether the property purchased by the department on the 24th of June, 1912, divided as it is by the highway and four railway tracks, is going to be utilized by the department either as a rifle range or for a military training school? I want to know if there are any buildings erected on that property, or if there are any plans for the construction of such buildings. I can inform my hon. friend that anybody in Montreal will tell him that the price paid by the department for that property—\$180,000—is considered scandalous. I do not say that my hon. friend is personally responsible for that, but officially, of course, he has to bear the responsibility. I can tell my hon. friend that the properties around the two blocks of land purchased by his department at Lachine can be bought to-day, and could have been bought at that time, for \$600 an acre and less. It is rather startling that a gentleman who had invested \$20,000 in one block and \$36,000 in another—sixteen days before its sale to the department—could sell that block to the department without mentioning at the registry office the price he paid for the last section of the property, and make a profit in sixteen days of nearly \$100,000. I expect that my hon. friend will give the House, as soon as possible, the information which I am seeking by this motion.

Hon. SAM. HUGHES (Minister of Militia and Defence): I am greatly indebted to [Mr. Lemieux.]

debted to the hon. gentleman for his very capable address, bristling as it does with everything but facts. He pointed out that for the time being he is not going to make any charges, but he demands a thorough investigation, to which I heartily assent. He speaks of the barracks being required for the city of Montreal, and yet advocates the building of a barracks on a site down in St. Lambert, which he says is two miles from Montreal by air line. He proposes, I suppose, to use aeroplanes to get the boys out there. It is nearly as far from the post office at Montreal to the site on the south side of the river, as it is from the post office to the Dorval site which I purchased—and a much more awkward road. There are four railway tracks running through the property; there is a splendid main road, and, what the hon. gentleman did not mention, there is a boulevard about to be constructed along the rear part of the property. Besides that, the electric street cars, which will be there in a very short time, will render this the most accessible site in the neighbourhood of Montreal. The hon. gentleman points out that Sir Frederick Borden, after giving certain property to the people of Montreal, selected the site across the river St. Lawrence, which had been handed over to us by the British Government in 1867. The hon. gentleman tells us that Sir Frederick Borden himself, and I am not surprised at it, could not locate a site anywhere near the city of Montreal for a price less than \$400,000 or \$500,000 or possibly \$1,000,000; but I have obtained a site for \$180,000, within a few miles of the city of Montreal, and a better site than any that was located by my predecessor. When Sir Frederick Borden thought of locating the school of instruction on the south side of the river St. Lawrence, I drew to his attention the fact that the officers, not only from the city of Montreal but from the country districts, complained bitterly about that location, pointed out that about one-third of it was under water part of the year, and that there was a ridge on that property behind which the water lay until it became stagnant. I asked Sir Frederick Borden at the time if these facts were true, and I also challenged Mr. Geoffrion, who then represented the constituency, I believe, in which the property is located, and Mr. Geoffrion said he thought the land was sandy. When I became Minister of Militia, one of the first things I did was to visit that property, and I was tramping through mud half-way up to my knees