

Mr. FISHER. I suppose it does from what my hon. friend says.

Mr. ALCORN. This item at page V—10.

Mr. FISHER. I should think that was the general item of advertising.

St. Thomas drill hall—grading grounds, \$3,000.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. What is the nature of this vote?

Mr. FISHER. This is for grading and levelling the ground around St. Thomas drill hall as requested by the Department of Militia and Defence.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. How much land does that take in?

Mr. FISHER. 601 feet on Wilson street, and 590 feet on Chester street, 32 lots, including a street called East avenue, in all 8½ acres.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. That \$3,000 is intended to be used in grading that ground?

Mr. FISHER. Levelling and fencing the property.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. How is that work being done?

Mr. FISHER. It is not done yet. I do not know whether it will be done by contract or not.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. I know that they are working at it now. I know the fence is up and they are grading. Is that work being done by day labour or contract labour?

Mr. FISHER. I understand the fence is paid for so much a foot.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. Who has the contract?

Mr. FISHER. I have not the names.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. Who is the overseer?

Mr. FISHER. I have not the names.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. How is the grading done?

Mr. FISHER. My officer thinks it is done at so much a yard?

Mr. WM. JACKSON. If it is done by the yard who has the contract?

Mr. FISHER. I do not know anything about the details.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. I would like to know.

Mr. FISHER. I will get them for the hon. gentleman.

Mr. WM. JACKSON. If it is done by day work I would like to know who is the overseer.

Mr. MONK. How much is being paid a yard for that work?

Mr. ALCORN.

Mr. FISHER. I will find that out, I have not the information.

Simcoe public building, \$10,000.

Mr. MONK. Anything done yet there?

Mr. FISHER. The site is bought and this is to go on with the work. Contract has not been let.

Mr. SPROULE. Is this a post office and custom house combined.

Mr. FISHER. Post office and customs.

Stratford armoury, \$5,000.

Mr. SPROULE. What is this for?

Mr. FISHER. To complete the building.

Toronto customs house—alterations and additions, \$15,000.

Mr. FISHER. This is under contract.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Will the hon. minister say whether he has any policy in regard to the proposal to dispose of the present Toronto custom house and put up a large building?

Mr. FISHER. I could not say as to that.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Of course it is a building that in its present position you would not be justified in spending much on, in view of the fact that the block is likely to be taken for the railway improvements. The business now done there is the largest in any custom house in the country and there is a lack of accommodation for that business. It is a very old fashioned building and I would suggest to the minister that he should give his attention to the question of providing the facilities required to accommodate the large amount of business done in the Toronto custom house. With all the improvements that are going on now in Toronto I would suggest that the government instead of continuing to spend money on this building should consider the question of providing a new building.

Mr. FISHER. I will ask my hon. friend the Minister of Customs about it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I would like to ask what the position of Mr. S. G. Curry is in reference to these Toronto buildings?

Mr. FISHER. He is supervising architect on commission.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. What commission does he receive.

Mr. FISHER. I suppose the usual architect's commission. It depends on the class of work.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Has he charge of all the public buildings in Toronto?

Mr. FISHER. Most of them.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. He acts as clerk of the works as well as architect.