

was not properly located for a skating rink, it was up to the hotel man or anybody else who happened to require the building for a skating rink, to have it moved so that it would be well located for that business. I visited a pretty good-sized town in my county a few years ago just before the militia was called out to camp. The captain of the local company took me around to the drill hall, owned, as the Minister of Militia says, by the people of Canada, and showed me this drill hall which had been used as a skating rink all winter and which had two feet of slush in it so that the militia could not use it for a drill at all. To say that the public should have the use of these buildings is all right so far as agriculture and other purposes are concerned. But I think it a mistake that the drill halls of the country should be used as the late government allowed them to be used—and I speak by the book—allowing them to be turned into skating rinks.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). That is not a public use.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Could not the hon. gentleman utilize a portion of this vote for the purpose of taking care of some of the old forts in different parts of the country? I have in mind more especially Fort Howe, in the city of St. John, which is now completely neglected. The attention of my hon. friend (Mr. Hughes, Victoria) has been called to it. The former Minister of Militia had an examination and survey made of the grounds with a view to making some improvements. The cost of making improvements would be trifling, but they would be of great advantage to the city. Had the former Minister of Militia remained in office, I think he would have carried out these improvements. If the amount cannot be taken from this appropriation, perhaps the minister would think of providing for it in the supplementaries.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). In conformity with the hon. gentleman's request, I took the matter up with the Council. There is no secret about it. There was a most hearty response from every member in the Cabinet. Whether there will be an item in the supplementary estimates, I am not in a position to say, as the hon. gentleman knows. But I can assure him that his suggestions were most favourably received. Not only St. John, but every other place in the country will be brought to notice. A lot of things have been saddled upon the Minister of Militia that do not properly belong to him. I think that item would more properly come under the Battlefields Commission, and if the matter can be so arranged, they should assume the responsibility of carrying it out.

Mr. LALOR.

Mr. McKENZIE. I wish to call the attention of the minister to the armoury in the town of Baddeck, in the county of Victoria, the headquarters of the 94th regiment of Highlanders. The armoury is a small one, and I have been trying for years to get it enlarged, and also to get a drill shed built, in connection with it. Last year I succeeded in getting the Minister of Militia to send an officer from Halifax down there to make a report upon the condition of the armoury, and what could be done with a view of enlarging it with the addition of a drill hall. I also asked him to make a report upon obtaining a rifle range at that point for the 94th. I wrote to the present minister in the early part of this session inquiring for the report of that officer, but I have not yet received a reply. I want to point out to the minister that the town of Baddeck is rather a fashionable place of resort for Americans in the summer time, it is a beautiful spot on the Bras d'Or lakes, and we would like our military buildings to look up to date. The building at Baddeck is a low set one thrown into a field, with nothing around it to suggest that it is a military building. I hope the officer has made a favourable report in regard to the rifle range, and that the minister will proceed to act upon it.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I have no recollection of the details of the case. I remember my hon. friend asking me for a report on the matter, and I sent to Halifax for it, but it has not yet come to hand. However, I will make inquiries and find out. Nothing is too good for the old 94th.

Mr. CARROLL. I would like to bring to the attention of the minister the condition of the armoury in the city of Sydney. There is a military property there now, I do not know whether it is at the present time the property of the Dominion government, or of the Imperial government. We have a regiment at Sydney, which is a thriving town of over 20,000 inhabitants. There are many young men who are much interested in military affairs, both cavalry and infantry, and they wanted me to bring to the attention of the minister, the fact that an armoury and drill shed are required in Sydney. There are some buildings to which the military people of Sydney have access, but they are on ground which a few years ago, belonged to the Imperial government. I would like the minister to investigate this matter. I would also ask him to tell me if there has been an application from Sydney for a rifle range, and what success the application has met with.