

drill, £50; army chests, £3,550; ammunition boxes, £6,400; four batteries 12-pounder guns, £24,000; 12,000 rounds of gun ammunition, £12,000.

MR. DAVIES (P.E.I.)—How many of these are supplied from the War Office factories?

MR. FOSTER—21,150 rifles are supplied through the trade at £4 each, and 18,850 Lee-Enfields and 2,300 carbines from the factories. 20,000 bayonets and scabbards are supplied by each.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—What is the sum total altogether? I do not make it quite as much as the hon. gentleman.

MR. FOSTER—The sum total of those I have read amounts to £325,000, or a little over \$1,500,000.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—That is only just about one-half the three millions.

MR. FOSTER—Yes, I have only read for the rifles, the four batteries and their supply, and the bayonets and scabbards.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—Then we want to know what he wants the other million and a half for?

MR. FOSTER—Besides the item I have read, there are other things. There are fifty Maxim guns of the latest pattern, and 1,500,000 rounds of ammunition for them; 200 sets of wheel harness, and 400 sets of lead harness.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—What is the cost of the harness?

MR. FOSTER—I will give a short but comprehensive list, which will show the cost of what has been ordered so far. It appears that the cost of the harness, Maxim guns and ammunition, together with the Lee-Enfield rifle, is £228,000. Then the estimated cost of the carbines is £10,000.

MR. MULOCK—They were included in the former estimate?

MR. FOSTER—Yes, with the exception of the harness and Maxims. If you add those with their equipments and ammunition to the item I have read, the total will come up to about £379,000, or about \$1,850,000.

MR. DICKEY—Col. Lake went over with authority and with a general order to which the Hon. Finance Minister has referred. He has made a certain purchase, which the Hon. Finance Minister has stated to the House, from the War Office. The balance of the material will bring the amount up to \$1,850,000. But at the present time I am not able to give more information than the original estimates as to what the harness would cost.

MR. DAVIES (P. E. I.)—Is that all?

MR. DICKEY—The contract made with the War Office is for that amount.

MR. DAVIES (P. E. I.)—Is that all the contract so far made?

MR. DICKEY—I am not quite in a position to say; but it is all so far as I am advised.

The approximate cost of harness is \$59,000. The original intention was to have ordered fifty Maxim guns, as the Minister of Finance stated; but Lord Wolseley did not advise that course to be followed. He advised that we should spend the money at our disposal on artillery rather than on Maxim guns, and under his advice the order was changed when Col. Lake was in England; and Col. Lake's present instructions are to buy what the Finance Minister has said, the necessary harness and fill the order, except as regards Maxim guns, and spend on Maxims whatever balance there might be. I am not in a position to say how many Maxims will be obtained, because the amended order as regards artillery will use up a large part of the money intended for Maxim guns. The artillery ordered is of a different and superior class and is necessarily more expensive.

MR. CASEY—What will be the cost of the artillery?

MR. DICKEY—£26,000.

MR. EDGAR—What is the cost of each Maxim gun?

MR. DICKEY—About \$3,000 without ammunition.

MR. CASEY—How many guns will £26,000 purchase?

MR. DICKEY—Twenty-four guns. The order of which the Finance Minister spoke was for the improved gun—it is a thoroughly modern gun.

MR. MILLS (Bothwell)—Then the same number of guns will be obtained, but of superior quality.

MR. DICKEY—Yes, they will be 12-pound rifle guns, breech-loaders.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—The hon. gentleman has not stated what it is proposed to do with the remaining \$1,100,000.

MR. DICKEY—As the Finance Minister explained, that question has not been determined, though it was thought more prudent at the time that a larger vote should be taken than was actually required to be expended at the moment. An equipment is very much needed for the force, and the General has been making experiments with various equipments and has been consulting the War Office as to the best to be obtained, and I am inclined to think he will advise the purchase of an equipment.

MR. CASEY—You mean the strap arrangements.

MR. DICKEY—Yes. It would be almost necessary, if the militia had to take the field, to have new equipments, for the old equipments, as hon. members of this House well know, is almost totally useless and worn out, and some of it is thirty or thirty-five years old.

MR. MILLS (Bothwell)—Is any money to be spent in fortifications or field works?

MR. DICKEY—No.

MR. O'BRIEN—The House and the country will be very much gratified to find that the expenditure to be made by the Militia Department under this proposed proposition is to be made direct with the War Office. That relieves the Government of any possible imputation.

MR. CASEY—Not the whole of it.

MR. O'BRIEN—Practically all of it. If it is to be purchased through the War Office, it does not matter whether it is obtained from the Government factory or from private factories under the War Office. The prices are fixed and the inspection is the same. The money will go direct to the War Office, and as we know exactly the price of each article, the whole transaction is eminently satisfactory.

MR. DAVIES (P.E.I.)—Does the hon. gentleman understand the money will go through the War Office?

MR. DICKEY—The payment will be made through the High Commissioner's office. The officials there will be notified that a certain contract was completed and a draft will be sent on a certain day which will have to be paid.

MR. CASEY—Not for harness and saddlery; they are to be private contracts.

MR. DICKEY—I do not want the hon. gentleman so to understand the matter. All I desired to intimate was, that I could not be sure the harness and saddlery could be bought through the War Office. I am sure Col. Lake will do so if he can. When I was Minister of Militia I sent Col. Lake to England in order that he might make all the arrangements that he thought best. I thought this would save correspondence and enable the Dominion to get better terms, and I think he has been eminently successful. He has managed all the details of the business without any instructions from this side, the only thing he has asked having been a general concurrence in the result of his negotiations, but the whole details have been settled by Col. Lake himself.

MR. O'BRIEN—I think in that respect also the Government have been fortunate, because Col. Lake is an officer in whom the country has absolute confidence. He is a man who, since he has been in the Department here, has gained the good will of every officer in the force with whom he has come in contact and has earned for himself the confidence of the country. I am quite sure that all business done through him will be done in a businesslike and satisfactory manner. So far as the armament already provided for goes, it is very satisfactory. I was glad to hear the Minister of Justice refer to the equipment, which in my opinion is as important as the rifle. Until we have a proper equipment it is idle to talk about our forces being fitted for the field. I would rather take a force into the field with an inferior rifle and reasonably good equipment than with a first-