

happen to the men in gun drill. Some years ago the officer commanding the battery at Hamilton was injured in camp, and that gentleman will go to his grave limping because there were not then at hand the necessary surgical appliances. Such accidents may happen at any time to the men of the corps in the spring of the year, and I think it is not to the credit of the government—I do not like to say it is to the discredit of the Militia Department, because it does not entirely rest with the Minister of Militia; but it is not to the credit of the government that after forming and equipping a medical corps, that corps should not be, in case of accident, immediately available.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There is a great deal of force and truth in what my hon. friend has said. He must not forget, however, that when the Hamilton drill hall was constructed, in fact all the drill halls, there were no bearer companies then, and there was no army medical corps or staff in existence, you may say, in this country. It was not then contemplated to give accommodation to a corps of any kind to which the hon. gentleman refers, though we can all see now that such a corps is absolutely necessary, and one of the most important parts of the system. Therefore a place had to be found outside. I was not aware that the commanding officer of the bearer company was paying rent for the building. I was under the impression we were paying it. I know we are paying rent in other places, and we should pay rent in Hamilton. My hon. friend, however, will be glad to know that I hope to be able, out of this vote, to make some provision adjacent to that drill hall for the corps of which he speaks. That is one of the things which we contemplate doing with the money now being voted.

Mr. BARKER. I do not assert positively that the commanding officer is paying the rent, but I understand he is. I shall be glad to know that the government is paying the rent.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. We are paying it everywhere else.

Mr. BARKER. The most serious objection is that the medical corps are quartered nearly half a mile away from the drill shed. I think that state of things should not exist one minute longer than it can be remedied.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I agree in that view.

Mr. CLARE. I notice in the report of the Major General that during the year 1901, he mentions drill halls as having been built at Windsor, Dundas, Kingston and Vancouver, and central armouries at Aurora, Barrie, Charlottetown, Chatham, Fredericton, Galt, &c. I would like to know whether

this means that an armoury has been erected in the town of Galt. It says so on page 41?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I am not prepared to give an answer with regard to this particular place. The report means, I think, that armouries have been established within the buildings. The Militia Department does not construct new buildings; but under the Act we may add to buildings already in existence, or repair or alter them. So I assume that must mean that in Galt some change has been made in the building for providing a central armoury for the battalion of infantry.

Mr. CLARE. The report here says that it had been completed. Now in the town of Galt the agricultural society of the south riding of Waterloo, erected a new building, and in this building they rented a room, I understand, for an armoury, for which the government pays them \$40 per annum. This report is misleading if it means that the government has erected a building there for armoury purposes. I would like to say that in the county of Waterloo, where we have a regiment, there is just one armoury for one of the companies in the town of Hespeler, and that itself is a make shift.

I think it would be proper for the government to enlarge the regiment which we have in Waterloo, and which is composed of six companies. I understand that there should be eight companies in a regiment. We can easily have two companies more. The town of Waterloo is very anxious to organize a company, Berlin would form another company, and Preston could form a company. The county of Waterloo is so situated that one-half of the regiment, located in Hespeler, Preston and Galt, would have the advantage of electric railway communication. They would have four companies at these places, and then four other companies would be located, two at Berlin, one at Waterloo and one at Hamburg. We could then have a full regiment, and we should have armoury and drill shed accommodation for half of the battalion in Galt, and for the other half in Berlin. Is it the intention of the government to erect these buildings? I understand, a few years ago—I do not know whether it was just before an election—there was some land purchased in the town of Berlin for the purpose of erecting a drill shed and armoury. Unfortunately in North Waterloo the election went by acclamation and we have heard nothing since in regard to it. I think when we have in that county men who are willing to fight the battles of the country, we should provide them with armouries so as to give them a chance.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I can assure my hon. friend (Mr. Clare), in all sincerity, that the election had nothing to do, nor will it have anything to do with the policy of the Militia