

a great deal of suffering to our soldiers. I am glad to see that a Canadian has been given the credit of showing General Kitchener the importance of having pack horses for carrying on operations in South Africa. That is a step in the right direction, one that will do credit to Canada and will assist in the success of British arms there. There are one or two other points in this report but they are of less importance, and I shall not deal with them. But those that I have mentioned, it seems to me, are very important.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. My hon. friend will remember, and the House will remember, that under the arrangement made with the Imperial authorities, the Canadian government has nothing whatever to do with the forage or rations after the arrival of the troops and horses in South Africa. That is the fact, and consequently we are not responsible. Of course, the case to which the hon. gentleman refers is a serious one, and I agree with him that if true, it is quite inexplicable at a point so near the base of supplies. On the other hand, I would point out to the House that Lieut.-Col. Herchmer may possibly be looking at what happened out there through glasses perhaps scarcely fair. I think that any wrong that occurred he would be inclined to see through a glass magnifying a good deal, and any good he would see from an infinitesimal point of view. I should not have referred to this, but it is only fair, I think, when a statement of this kind is sent into the House, no doubt at the request of Lieut.-Col. Herchmer—

MR. INGRAM. No, Mr. Chairman, excuse me. Col. Herchmer is in no way responsible for that document, nor any other living man, so far as I know. I came across that document accidentally, I do not know who placed it in the position where I found it; and having perused it, I could not help referring the matter to the hon. gentleman. If it was laid in such a position that I could put my hands on it, there may be other documents lying around in such a position that other gentlemen can put their hands on them.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have no objection to the hon. gentleman reading it, but I think it was the duty of Lieut.-Col. Herchmer, who was appointed by this government as one of the officers of the Canadian contingent in South Africa, to make a report of that kind to his own government. As a matter of fact, Lieut.-Col. Herchmer was displaced from his command in South Africa on the report of General Hutton, supported by a medical officer, I forget which one it was; and Col. Herchmer has been applying to me and to the government ever since for redress with reference to his treatment. I was not able to see that he had been badly treated, nor do I think he was badly treat-

ed. But I have no doubt that he feels uncomfortable, and feels disposed to make things as unpleasant as he can, both for this government and the Imperial government.

MR. INGRAM. I may say this is dated at Canarvon, 22nd March, 1900, and is addressed to the C. S. O., Ottawa, that is the chief staff officer, Ottawa. It goes on from day to day, giving reports to the department here, as I take it, and is signed T. D. B. Evans, Lt.-Col. Comdng. 2nd Bn., C.M.R.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Then, I think it would be in order to ask my hon. friend how he came into possession of it. If it is an official document, I think we have a right to know.

MR. INGRAM. I can say I found it in a drawer. I do not know who put it there, I will admit that much, and that is all I can admit. That drawer I am in the habit of using myself.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There is no doubt about its being an official document.

MR. SPROULE. Would the minister tell us about the number of rifles we have, and also give us some information regarding the quality of the ammunition?

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The only ammunition which we have had here which was not up to the proper standard, was ammunition which we purchased from the War Office. That was admitted to be bad, or not quite what it ought to be; and after having a report by the superintendent of the cartridge factory we asked parliament to vote, I think, a sum of \$15,000 to make these cartridges all right. That money was voted, and the cartridges have been made good. The Imperial government, recognizing that we were not to blame in the matter, that they were responsible, have repaid the amount. As to the quantity of arms, we have 40,000 stand of Lee-Enfield and Lee-Metford rifles. As to the quantity of ammunition, I am not able to state the exact amount. Perhaps it is not desirable that I should. But I may say that it is not up to the reserve quantity that we ought to have, that we are increasing the capacity of the cartridge factory now to about four times what it was, in the hope that in a very few years we shall have a very large reserve indeed, a satisfactory reserve of ammunition, in fact the reserve which the intelligence branch of the War Office required or advised.

MR. INGRAM. There is another matter I desire to mention, and one to which I drew the attention of the hon. gentleman last year, and that is the cadet corps. Would the hon. gentleman explain what he has done to supply the cadet corps with ammunition, &c.?