

tleman, who knew these things were going on all these years, sat dumb as an oyster.

Mr. CARVELL. We never got to the point of buying automobiles.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). When the hon. gentleman talks about there being no work for these officers to do in New Brunswick, he does not know what he is talking about, he is talking nonsense. Let me remind him of the units scattered over his own province, scattered over miles and miles of territory, where the officers have to make long drives, and hang around the stations waiting for the trains, hours at a time, both days and nights. Every cadet corps, every rifle association has to be inspected. The staff officer for that purpose in New Brunswick has to work night and day, and does his duty as well as any other officer in the Dominion of Canada. I want to tell my hon. friend from Carleton, N.B. (Mr. Carvell) that if he has had in the past cause of complaint he is not going to have that cause of complaint very long, because I can assure him that if there are staff officers who have been loafing around doing only two hours work in the day, that will soon be put a stop to. The hon. gentleman has been condoning it, but no hon. gentleman on the government side will tolerate, as he has tolerated, any such conduct on the part of officers who have so little to do, and if there is no work for them to do, they will be disposed of. I think the hon. gentleman, who is himself a soldier, should not be casting reflections upon the force, seeing he has failed in the past in having these wrongs remedied.

Mr. CARVELL. I protested in the past, perhaps not as strongly as I ought to have done, but I protested all these years. Notwithstanding the extracts from the report of General French which the hon. gentleman is going to fall back upon, I may tell him that we have got too much militarism in this country. My hon. friend talks about what they are going to do here, in one of these numerous memoranda that he distributes among the members to prove that he is not increasing the cost of the militia to the country. I find here a most astounding statement that the people of Canada spend to-day on sheer gold lace militarism one-third as much as they are paying in Germany, which is supposed to be the most military-ridden country in the world. Just think of it! I figured out that the people of Canada are paying 34 per cent as much as they are paying in Germany per capita, one-quarter as much as they are paying in Great Britain, one-quarter as much as they are paying in France, and 57 per cent of what they are paying in Italy. It is a remarkable statement, and the people of this country may

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria).

well pause and consider where we are going. It is bad enough to add half a million dollars, as my hon. friend is doing this year, but when it comes to buying automobiles for these \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000 a year officers to ride around in, I think it is straining the people's patience to the breaking point.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Would the hon. gentleman have them go by foot? As to the comparison with Germany and other nations, let me point out that Canada to-day has a very large area with a very small population, while Germany has a very small area with a very large population, which of course affects the pro rata of expenditure. But as Canada fills up, the cost per head will naturally decrease.

Mr. CHISHOLM (Antigonish). It is said that the best literary critics are men who never wrote a book, and the best musical critics are men who cannot tell one note from another. I do not profess to be a military critic, but I think I do know something of public opinion throughout the country on this subject. There is a general impression prevailing in the rural districts that there is proportionately too much spent on militarism. The Minister of Militia is so filled with the spirit of militarism that he really cannot see beyond his environment. To him militarism is like grace to a Christian, he cannot have too much of it. When one considers that for arts, agriculture and statistics, we are only providing about \$2,000,000 in the main estimates, and for militia something over \$8,000,000, four times as much, without taking into consideration another million dollars or so for armouries and drill halls, and one thing and another, one is driven to the conviction that it is time to call a halt. Besides, this great sum does not include what is to be spent on the navy. When they compare what is spent on militarism with the amount spent on agriculture, I think the farmers are well justified in entertaining a feeling of great dissatisfaction. I know this thing has been going on for years. I do not say the present administration is alone responsible for it. But it is so that this feeling of dissatisfaction been prevalent for years. I was glad to hear my hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carvell) express the sentiments he did. I know these sentiments obtain largely on the other side of the House as well as on this side. In fact, I have heard some of the hon. gentlemen opposite express the opinion that there is too much money spent on militarism. Now, the Minister of Militia says that he must purchase automobiles for his officers. They may effect a saving, as he has pointed out, it may be that the services of his officers may be utilized to