

Mr. TOBIN. The hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Boulay), has admitted that he was against the increase of the expenditure for militia. He also admits that during the last election in Rimouski he used that against the government. And my hon. friend has only to go back to 'Hansard,' to his speech of last Tuesday night, and that will bear out what I said as to the language he used about the Speaker of this House:

Ordinance, Arms, Lands and Equipment, \$1,300,000.

Mr. EMMERSON. I desire information with regard to the proposed armoury for Moncton. A year or so ago an officer of the Department of Public Works and an officer of the Militia Department from Halifax were sent to select a site, which was afterwards expropriated for the purpose of an armoury. I do not know in what position the matter is now. I hope progress is being made, and that the construction of the armoury will be expedited.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I do not know the details of this case, but there have been a number of cases in which armouries were erected that were found not to be satisfactory. It might be they had no place for the officers to meet, or perhaps no place for the cadet corps or the boy scouts; no place to hold a fat-stock show or an automobile show or other public exhibition for which such buildings may be properly used.

Mr. CARVELL. Surely the hon. gentleman is not going to allow fat-stock shows in the armouries?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). They did before my time, and I hope they will again.

Mr. CARVELL. I succeeded in having a fat-stock show in the armoury in my town and I was nearly excommunicated from the military church on account of it. I thought it was a very proper proceeding.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I think so too.

Mr. CARVELL. I said: before you drive your stock there, put sawdust on the floor.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). That is right.

Mr. CARVELL. There was a lot of talk about it. They wanted to insure the place for \$50,000 or \$60,000 for the week of the show. But that was not done. It seems to me that as these armouries are built with public money they should be used for every thing that will not interfere with the use for which they were first intended.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Hear, hear.

Mr. CARVELL. That is one point on which the minister and I agree. Another

point is the Ross rifle. When this vote is expended how many rifles will there be belonging to the militia of Canada, supposed to be in good condition and brought up to date?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am informed that there will be about 95,000, but I have not the exact figures here.

Mr. EMMERSON. I may say to the minister that the official who came from Halifax, took into consideration the question of sufficient room, and in selecting the site he had all these matters in view. I think the minister will find there is ample room, that the site is one that will do the department great credit. I bring that matter up to remind the minister of the conditions that prevail and ask him to have inquiry made and to see that action is taken to utilize the site.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I desire to have this question of the use of drill halls understood. I am not a crank on this subject, and I do not want to waste a dollar of public money. I am sincere and enthusiastic in looking upon the training of the militia and of the cadets as one of the best things for the country, and I know that the heart of the country is with me in that. These drill halls are going to cost money. But I have been experimenting with all sorts of plans and discussing the matter with architects and others, and I am satisfied that we are now in the position—it was due to the action of my hon. friend from North Simcoe (Mr. Currie), who drew my attention to a building in his town that was being used for an armoury—to provide these buildings much more cheaply than formerly. These are not extravagant buildings. For a country village with one company, room would be provided; where there are two companies the building will be suitable. When it comes to a city the size of Moncton, I believe that the place should have a suitable armoury. It is due to such a city from the government of this country, and the armoury should be a place that could be used by the scouts, the cadets, and the militia. Also philanthropic organizations and others should be allowed to use it—anything for the development of the people so long as it does not rival other buildings. That is the rule we have established. The public own these buildings, and the public should have an opportunity to use them.

Mr. LALOR. What are we to understand the minister to mean when he says that the public should have the use of these buildings? It seemed to be the policy of the late government, so far as my county was concerned, to allow the use of the drill halls for skating rinks. And if the drill hall