

Mr. MACDONALD. Does not the statute require you to call for tenders for a purchase so large?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Not at all. I consulted fifty different agents describing to each what I wanted. If I had taken the assurance of each of these as to the best machines, I should have had fifty different machines at the cost of, from \$1,000, to \$8,000. But I could only buy 12. I bought the machine that I knew personally and that was recommended by three separate agents of different companies, after I had explained the purpose for which we wanted them. They are the cheapest in the market and recognized the world over as being the best cheap, handy, strong machine. There are eighty thousand of them made every year. We can take these machines and throw them away at the end of the year and have money in our pockets for our purposes over buying expensive machines. We do not want to have our men travel in too great luxury, but we want to give them facilities for their work.

Mr. MACDONALD. Where are you going to use them?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The district officer in every district will have one for his own inspection work. Take the hon. gentleman's own county. Though that county is as well furnished with railways as any in the Dominion, I suppose, still if the officer has to visit Stellarton, Westville, Pictou, Trenton, New Glasgow, and must go by train or livery, he is sure to lose time. And in the ordinary county that is not so well served by railways, the officer will be able to save half his time.

Mr. MACDONALD. Do you employ chauffeurs?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). At the present time the officer is entitled to a servant, and he will take the place.

Mr. CARVELL. All this sounds very nice coming from the Minister of Militia. He has been telling us many nice things this afternoon, and no one so far seems to have felt like telling him the truth. But the truth is that what the minister has just been saying is absolute nonsense at least so far as it applies to the province of New Brunswick. When the minister tells me that the inspecting officer in New Brunswick is going to save the cost of an automobile even if the cost is only \$1,000 in one year or ten years, I tell him that he is talking simple nonsense, I have no milder words to use.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I did not say that he would save the cost of an automobile in a year. I said we were going to save half the time—

Mr. CARVELL. The hon. gentleman is hedging now. But now, let me show him the position. In the first place, there is not a militia officer in Canada that works—I think I am safe in saying it—more than two hours a day, and I think that in putting it at that I am making a big allowance. They do not have the work to do. Take the militia officers of the Headquarters Staff, why they are walking over one another. They are busy renting more rooms to find places in which to stay.

Mr. EDWARDS. How long has that been going on??

Mr. CARVELL. Too long. For eight or nine years.

Mr. EDWARDS. It is the first time you have mentioned it.

Mr. CARVELL. It may be. It is not the first time I have thought of it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. CARVELL. My hon. friends may laugh. But I want to tell them that they will realize the position we have been in, sitting behind this general staff for the last six or eight years. They will be as sick of it as we are. We have had our fill and plenty of this general staff. I want to tell the hon. minister again that there is not a militia officer in Canada who does inspecting work, who works more than two months out of the year at the business. A man can start out on inspection work in New Brunswick—and I know what I am talking about—and taking the regular conveyances, he can inspect every regimental and company armoury in the province and he could not find two months work in it. More than that, he cannot find opportunity to use his automobile for more than two months out of the year. This is simply a means of increasing the perquisites of the general staff and district officers in different parts of the country. I have not criticised the minister severely so far. But when he gets up and tells us that it is necessary in the interest of economy, and in order to facilitate the inspection of the armouries to buy automobiles for these people, I think it time that somebody should tell him the truth. I am not appealing to the farmers in this matter. Many of our farmers have automobiles, and many others would like to have them. The farmers have no prejudice against automobiles.

But they do have a prejudice against men receiving the salaries that these men are receiving, and giving very little service for it, and then to go and buy them automobiles to ride around in.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am surprised to hear my hon. friend get up and slate his leader and his colleagues who have been so long in office; while the hon. gen-