

country, and a very valuable addition to the property of the Department. Under these circumstances, and especially as the stores, which were valuable, were in danger of being completely spoiled within a few months in the old building, we decided to make the purchase.

Mr. BLAKE. Was there any inspection, or any report from the officers as to the value of this building?

Mr. CARON. There is a written report which gives all the details, and which was submitted to Council before any action was taken. That report I shall be very glad to submit to Parliament.

Mr. BLAKE. Was the property in the hands of the tenants?

Mr. CARON. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. And how long had the arrears of rent been accumulating?

Mr. CARON. The property was leased by the Government to the firm of Dufresne & McGarity, who got into financial difficulties seven or eight years ago. Upon a lease obtained for a number of years they put up this valuable building, which was not only a warehouse, but their place of business, and was most elaborately fitted up. When Dufresne & McGarity got into difficulties the lease was taken by another firm, whose name I forget; but they never paid up the rent. I saw that those arrears stood against us in the books, and I submitted a statement to the Minister of Justice and asked him to proceed to recover this money, and ultimately the matter was settled in the way I have mentioned. The report which I will bring down gives all the details. With regard to the vote of \$20,000 for the purchase of ammunition, hon. gentlemen will understand that the stores have been allowed to run down considerably, and we have had to draw on the reserve of ammunition for the purpose of accommodating the annual artillery practice. The stores got so low that it became necessary for the Department to ask Parliament to vote this amount for replenishing them and enabling us to meet the requirements of the service.

Mr. BLAKE. I suppose for some time the hon. gentleman has been drawing on the reserve ammunition stock until it has got this low.

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman must go beyond the period of time when I took charge of the Department. The hon. gentleman who preceded me in this office will agree with me that the stores have been allowed to run down below what they should have been allowed to run at any period. To meet annual requirements and gradually reform the reserve this sum was required—\$5,000—for the annual requirements, and the remainder of the \$20,000 for the reserve.

Mr. BLAKE. It will take three years at \$20,000 each year to bring the reserve to the proper point, or \$60,000?

Mr. CARON. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. I am very glad to know the hon. gentleman calculates we will have no war inside of four years, but will have that time to make up our reserve in case of emergency.

Mr. CARON. The next item is \$150,000 for artillery battery and cavalry and infantry schools. The policy of the Government is to establish three schools of infantry to be composed of 100 men each. It is also the policy of the Government to establish a battery similar to "A" and "B" Batteries, to be called "C" Battery. This will be stationed in British Columbia. After consulting those who could advise me from a military point, I concluded that the British Columbia force should be an artillery force, and the intention is to place the commandant of "C" Battery also in command of the military district, substituting the commandant of "C" Battery for the Deputy

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Adjutant-General who formerly had the military command of this military district. By so doing we will have an artillery officer perfectly *au fait* with this branch, and who, moreover, will save us the pay we would otherwise have to give to the Deputy Adjutant-General. My intention is to combine the position of the commandant of "C" Battery with the position of Deputy Adjutant-General. By combining both we can save one of these offices, and have a unit so far as the military side of the question is concerned—one officer who will command not only the permanent force but also the military organization. The hon. gentleman would, no doubt, like to know the details of the expenditure we are going to make. As I stated on a former occasion, the whole expenditure will amount to \$203,900. This covers the three military schools, "C" Battery and a troop of cavalry. One half of that troop will be added to the establishment of "A" Battery in Quebec, and the other half to "B" Battery in Kingston. The object of thus dividing the troop is, that by adding sixteen horses to "A" and "B" Batteries each, it will be possible to organize a good permanent school of cavalry which will be a training school for the field officers and for the cavalry of this country. The captain of the Infantry School is to get \$1,460; two lieutenants, \$1,460 combined. These together with the sergeants, corporals, and ninety-two men, will make up \$16,200. The men's pay will be 40 cts. per head. That comprises the permanent establishment. To that we must add rations for 100 men, \$500; uniforms, boots, kits, &c., \$3,500; barracks, furniture, transport, fuel, light and contingencies, \$7,533, making \$37,000 for everything in each infantry school. The total amount for each school will be \$44,300. The troop of cavalry, as I stated, is to be divided; the cost will reach \$22,800. To establish these troops of cavalry we will have to add to that \$3,900 for the purpose of purchasing horses required for the troop; but this item will not be required another year.

Mr. BLAKE. Except the remounts.

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman would be surprised to learn how these cavalry and artillery horses live. The hon. gentleman will understand that under my system I intend to prevent war. The hon. gentleman must see that I am taking every possible precaution to avoid a war, and to save the expenditure we would have to incur in case of war.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has not given us the details of the \$22,800.

Mr. CARON. I have not got the details of expenditure for rations, horses, blankets, saddles, &c., but if the hon. gentleman requires, I will bring it down. I should have to go back to the old items in the Estimates to find exactly the items which have already been submitted to Parliament in detail, when I had to discuss the items for "A" and "B" Batteries. The items are exactly similar, except that in "A" and "B" Batteries each is composed of 150 men, whereas "C" Battery will only have one hundred. In discussing the Bill I gave the hon. gentleman the different items composing the expenditure. I was asked how I could explain that "C" Battery was going to cost so much less than "A" and "B" Batteries, and the reason I gave for the smaller estimate was that instead of having 150 men we had 100.

Mr. BLAKE. What is the estimated gross expenditure of "A" and "B" Batteries?

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman will see in the Estimates there is an amount for pay and equipment, "A" and "B" Batteries, \$125,700, from which has to be deducted \$2,500 on account of the transfer of an item to another Department.

Mr. BLAKE. Where are the three new schools to be stationed?