

tion of these grounds. The minister told us the other day that he had offered to take a million dollars, but the Manitoba government say that this figure is about four or five times the real value of the property. The minister told us also that they were quite well satisfied with the premises there now. I do not think he has a very accurate photograph of the property in his mind. It is rather a blot upon the city. There are a lot of old buildings, including a wooden drill shed built 25 or 30 years ago and totally inadequate for military purposes. I have no doubt that representations to the minister have been made with regard to it from time to time. Then, there is an old custom house, and they have some other buildings situated in other parts of the town. There has been a desire for better accommodation. I have been told that offers have been made to the government of grounds 30 acres in extent, inside the city boundary at a place called Happyland. They have the rifle range at St. Charles. I would like if the minister would give us in a few words the situation which exists at Winnipeg with regard to military matters.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I did not expect the matter to come up, but still I appreciate my hon. friend's motive, which is a good one, I know, and I will be very glad to tell him what I can offhand. In the valuation which we put upon this property we were quite sincere and had no desire whatever to place a valuation upon it which was unreasonable or which would in any way interfere with the praiseworthy object which the government of Manitoba have in view, namely, the increasing of their accommodation in the city of Winnipeg. As I said in the House in answer to my hon. friend a few days ago, we sent an officer to Winnipeg to inquire into the value of this and other properties which we own, including the rifle range to which I referred a moment ago. That officer reported that this property was worth \$800,000, and adding to that the value of the buildings, we thought that in order to put ourselves in as good a position as we are to-day, that is to procure land elsewhere and to construct new buildings, it would cost more than \$1,000,000, but we would be willing to accept that amount. As to our buildings, my hon. friend suggests that many of them are old. I dare say that is true, but I know that several are new. For instance, we have constructed a stores building and a house, or houses, in connection with it at an expense of \$50,000 or \$60,000, or more. We also altered the building in which the commandant of the station lives, at a very considerable expense. We have constructed other buildings there and with the exception perhaps of the drill shed, which is old and which must be rebuilt, I admit, in the near future, we are fairly comfortably situ-

Mr. HAGGART (Winnipeg).

ated, except that we do require more buildings than we have to-day. We are obliged to rent houses for the sergeants, although it would be better if we could have a building of our own. On the whole, we are getting along comfortably enough, and we had no intention of changing our position at the present at any rate. Now, with regard to the whole matter, I see by the papers that a deputation is coming here from Manitoba composed of representatives of the government to discuss this matter with this government. I am very glad indeed that it is, and I hope the result may be that the wrong impression which the government of Manitoba has received may be removed, and that some agreement advantageous to the government of Manitoba and fair to this government may be reached. I wish to say that in so far as I am concerned and, I am sure, the whole government is actuated by the same desire, I will do everything in my power to meet the government of Manitoba in this matter more than half-way.

Mr. HAGGART (Winnipeg). I think I have a little better knowledge of the property and the values of property than the minister.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I have none except what I get from other people.

Mr. HAGGART (Winnipeg). Except what you get from your officers. I would like to know in what way the officer who was sent there arrived at a valuation of \$800,000 for that property. It seems to me to be three times the actual value of the property.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. We have no intention, no desire whatever to ask more for the property than it is actually worth. Of course, not forgetting that we have to find a home for the military depot somewhere else. We must always keep that in mind. We cannot agree to turn ourselves out of doors without knowing how we are going to get a new home.

Mr. STAPLES. From whom did the government first obtain the Fort Osborne property and what was the original cost?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The Hudson Bay Company for the purpose of promoting the establishment of a government and a military depot, gave the lands, and so long as we choose to remain there they are ours.

Mr. ROCHE. And there is no stipulation binding the government not to part with the lands?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Not that I know of.

Mr. STAPLES. In a letter received from some of my constituents they complain that young men are not allowed to join