

Mr. THOMPSON. I would like to ask whether the military properties in Toronto have been transferred to the Dominion?

Mr. CARON. Yes; long ago.

Mr. THOMPSON. At what value?

Mr. CARON. The estimated value of those at Kingston, Niagara, and Toronto, is \$875,000.

63. Construction and repairs of military properties ..... \$47,410 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. This, I suppose, is in pursuance of that Act passed the other day. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will tell us what he proposes to do with it, and especially the largest item of \$35,700.

Mr. CARON. There are repairs at Kingston fortifications, \$1,310; Quebec, \$8,900; Champ de Mars, Montreal, \$1,500; military works and buildings, repairs and improvements, \$35,700. This last amount has been voted regularly for years to the Department of Public Works, for the purpose of keeping up barracks and fortifications and other military properties which we have to look after. I will give the items: No. 1, London, \$712; No. 2, Toronto, \$5,264.67; Kingston, \$10,568.61; Ottawa, \$1,642; Montreal, \$2,338.36; Quebec, \$6,337; St. John's, \$793.11; Halifax, \$7,403.17; Winnipeg, \$835; Victoria, B.C., \$2,135; Charlottetown, \$671; Quebec fortifications and repairs, \$8,999; Montreal, \$1,500; Kingston fortifications, \$1,310, making altogether \$47,410.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would like to know how many barracks we have, and how many the hon. Minister proposes to keep in order. I think a very large amount of the property he spoke of just now consists of large barracks. Does our agreement with the British Government require us to keep these barracks in order? If so, it must be a pretty heavy expense. It seems to me that we might arrange with the British Government that we should keep the barracks up at three or four different points.

Mr. CARON. This sum is quite sufficient to keep up all the barracks that have been transferred to us. We have the barracks in question, which, the hon. gentleman knows, are now the headquarters of "A" Battery and the School of Cavalry; the barracks on St. Helen's Island, at Montreal, where we keep our stores; the barracks at St. John's, Quebec, which are now the headquarters of a School of Infantry; the barracks at Fredericton, which are required for "A" School of Infantry; the Toronto barracks, which are used for "C" School of Infantry; and the military works at Kingston, which the hon. gentleman knows of. These are the principal works which require to be permanently looked after. The greatest portion of the works at Point Lévis have been transferred to the Department of Agriculture, and are now used for a quarantine; and the expenditure required for keeping them up is included in the estimates of my hon. friend, the Minister of Agriculture.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What are you going to do with the other barracks?

Mr. CARON. Some have been rented, and a good many have been sold. When any of this property is considered unnecessary for military purposes, it is transferred to the Department of the Interior, and it is then disposed of by that Department by sale or lease.

Mr. WELDON. Are the Fredericton barracks included in this vote?

Mr. CARON. No. When the infantry schools were established, we had to provide for them, and the Minister of Public Works provided for the Fredericton barracks in his estimates. In the Supplementary Estimates will appear the sum required after the first of July, to complete the  
Mr. CARON.

Fredericton barracks and the other barracks which have been utilized for the new schools of infantry.

Mr. BEATY. I wish to ask the hon. Minister whether, in speaking of the way in which this money was to be expended, he included the cost of a new armoury or drill shed for Toronto, or whether any policy has been adopted for the sale of the old drill shed property, for the purpose of building a new one, better adapted for the drilling of the large regiments there, which the present drill shed is utterly unsuited for.

Mr. CARON. This subject has already attracted my attention. It is a very large question, and cannot be decided without reference to gentlemen who live in Toronto, and who can express an opinion as to the value of this military property. A suggestion was made to me by my hon. friend from East Toronto (Mr. Small), which I think is a very valuable one. It was that a Commission should be appointed in Toronto, composed of the commanding officers of the various battalions, and possibly the Commandant of the School of Infantry and some other gentlemen, for the purpose of ascertaining the value of the military property which we have been utilizing for drill shed purposes; and if we can dispose of it at anything like a reasonable price, we may purchase a lot for a drill shed in a more convenient place. But my information is not sufficient at present to enable me to arrive at a definite conclusion.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex). I desire to ask what proportion of the buildings represented by this vote has been removed from the control of the Public Works Department. From a hasty estimate I have made, I see that the Public Works Department, in 1882-83, expended \$73,000 on the repair of military buildings. Now, if it is proposed that all these should be taken in hand by the Department of Militia and Defence, I think we shall all be inclined to support this vote, because it is so much less. But if this vote is an addition to the \$73,000, there is a very decided objection to it.

Mr. CARON. The \$47,000 I am now asking was estimated last year for the same purpose for which I am now asking it. The balance was appropriated for buildings. There are some other buildings remaining under the control of the Minister of Public Works, but the \$47,000 now asked for was estimated last year exactly as it is to-day, and is merely transferred from the Department of Public Works to my Department.

Mr. THOMPSON. It is rumoured that the Militia Department has some plan in view for disposing of a portion, if not all, of the Niagara camp ground. I trust such is not the case, and I wish to know if there is any truth in the rumour.

Mr. CARON. The Government has no intention whatever to dispose of any portion of this property. I would be very sorry to see it transferred for any other purpose than that for which it is now used.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Does the hon. gentleman propose to keep the Dufferin Terrace in repair out of this?

Mr. CARON. The stone wall of the terrace is part of the fortifications and will have to be kept in repair, but it is so substantially built that very little repairs will be required. The terrace itself is kept in repair by the city of Quebec.

64. Royal Military College..... \$59,000 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I want to call the special attention of the Minister and the Government to what I conceive is an unfortunate circumstance connected with this college. When it was instituted, promises were made by the late Government, which ought to have been