

of Montreal at the same time as St. Helen's island and Lafontaine park were transferred to the city of Montreal. When this resolution was introduced there was some little discussion in the House and some questions were put after which the resolutions were reported and the Bill founded upon them was passed.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: What date?

Mr. LEMIEUX: On July 17, 1908. In 1911 the question came up again but this time it took a concrete form. The Government had decided to build the barracks or the military school on the site belonging to the Government situated at Longueuil, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence facing the city of Montreal. An item was placed in the Estimates of that year and when the item was reached in Committee of the Whole a discussion ensued in which the present hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty), the ex-Minister of Public Works (Mr. Monk) and the then member for Chambly-Verchères, (Mr. Geoffrion) took part.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: What year was that?

Mr. LEMIEUX: The debate took place on February 7, 1911. The other members who took part in this discussion were the then Minister of Militia and Defence, Sir Frederick Borden, and the present hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Hughes). The hon. Minister of Justice, who was then the member for Montreal, St. Anne's, was not irremediably opposed to the site at Longueuil but he raised some objection on behalf of some officers of Montreal against that site. My hon. friend the ex-Minister of Public Works, the present member for Jacques Cartier, was strongly in favour of a site in his own county at Lachine. He expressed an opinion in that sense. On the contrary, the then member for Chambly-Verchères strongly recommended the selection of the site at Longueuil. Two others who spoke on this question were the ex-Minister of Militia and Defence and my hon. friend the present Minister of Militia and Defence. I may be permitted, in order to be accurate, to quote from a speech delivered on the 7th of February, 1911, by Sir Frederick Borden, in which he explained how it was that he had selected the Longueuil site, and after what investigation. At page 3145-6 of 'Hansard,' Feb. 7, 1911, my hon. friend the minister will find the speech delivered by Sir Frederick Borden. He said:

That was talked of, and the present proposal is more agreeable to the officers generally, as far as I know, than the location at Pointe aux Trembles would be.

I might remind you Mr. Speaker, that some people at that time were in favour of a site for a barracks and military school at Pointe aux Trembles, where our rifle ranges are located at the present time. Sir Frederick Borden continued:

Then there was a suggestion as to Lachine, another point some distance to the westward of the centre of the city, quite as far away as the present proposed location. That proposal would have been as good as the present proposal but no better. So, upon the whole, even from the point of view of accessibility I think the present location is fairly satisfactory. Accessibility will be measured by time. How long does it take from a given point, the post office, or some central point in the city of Montreal to get to a given place? I understand that by way of the Victoria bridge at all times of the year, and by crossing the river by ferry in certain seasons of the year, the time occupied in going from the centre of Montreal to Longueuil is only a few minutes, and that the tendency is towards improvement in that regard.

There is the Southern Counties railway, and there is the street railway giving direct accommodation with the centre of Montreal—better communication than there is with our rifle ranges at Pointe aux Trembles. I think there is no serious difficulty on that ground. As far as officers outside of the city are concerned, it cannot make any difference to them and these military depots are of quite as much importance to the country militia as to the city militia.

As to evening schools and that sort of thing, I do not know what the course of instruction would be, but it would always be easy for us to arrange a course of instruction at hours which would suit professional and business men in the city, and an effort will be made to do that wherever the location may be. We had also to consider, Mr. Chairman, another matter of importance, and that is the question of expense.

I wish to call the attention of the House to the weighty words of the then Minister of Militia and Defence:

The Government own this land.

That is, the Longueuil site.

It was owned by the British war office, and it was handed over to the Canadian Government at the time of Confederation. It is a block of land between 100 and 200 acres in extent and, as a matter of fact, it is costing Canada not one single dollar as against the problem we had before us of purchasing between 100 and 200 acres of land in the city of Montreal, or near Montreal at a cost of \$300,000 or \$400,000, and perhaps \$1,000,000. It seemed to me that that was a point that could not be disregarded. It is a matter of very considerable consequence, and I felt that a very difficult problem had been solved when I found this land practically waiting for us, and I thought I was acting in the public interest as well as in the interest of the