

Mr. McDONALD (Cape Breton). I can tell the hon. gentleman that at the port of Sydney last season 300 Atlantic steamers loaded with bunker coal; and during the past calendar year about 500,000 tons of shipping called, while at its out-ports the ships which entered and cleared could not have been less than 250,000 tons, making 750,000 tons in all for the ports in the county of Cape Breton alone. I may say that very frequently small-pox is brought to this port in vessels, and this gives us a great deal of trouble. For the last several years we have been endeavoring to get the Government to build a quarantine hospital, and at last they have consented to do so. I am glad to say that the contract has been awarded, and that the building is being erected. This matter cost the Government, some three or four years ago, I think, a considerable sum. Several vessels came to this port five years ago, and two in particular, the owners of which, from St. John, N.B., were obliged to build a temporary hospital for their men. This cost the owners of the vessels a good deal, and I think that the Government made good a portion of the expense to which these owners were put. Hereafter, however, nothing of this kind will have to be done.

Mr. BLAKE. Has the hon. gentleman any information with reference to what I was very sorry to see in a paper to-day—a very serious outbreak of small-pox at St. Boniface?

Mr. POPE. No; I have not.

Mr. BLAKE. The newspapers say it is very serious

Mr. POPE. I do not think that this is possible from recent information which I have received. Formerly at Sydney we had temporary provision for these cases; the Custom House officers could quarantine vessels and send the men to some other port, where provision for patients existed.

Mr. ROYAL. As to the report in the papers with reference to small-pox in some part of Manitoba, I am enabled to state, from a private letter received from that locality, that this disease has existed in some localities on Red River during last winter; one or two families of half-breeds only had it two or three weeks ago; and this small affair has been greatly exaggerated. I am able to state that no such thing as this disease has broken out in that locality; besides, the municipal authorities of St. Boniface, some two or three weeks ago, provided hospital accommodation to meet any such emergency that might arise.

Mr. DODD. As to the port of Sydney, it is peculiarly situated, inasmuch as it is a port of divergence for vessels coming across the Atlantic to southern or western ports, in the St. Lawrence or in the States. An immense amount of shipping called there last year. In addition to some 200 odd steamships, which called at our port, we had in the aggregate an amount of shipping beyond that which visited the port of Montreal, the largest shipping port of Canada. It is necessary, of course, that precautions should be taken against the spread of small-pox, which is frequently brought there by vessels; and consequently this is a very proper vote for a proper purpose.

342. Militia \$180,500.00

Mr. CARON. The first item is for the purchase of building and property situated on the east side of the canal basin required for military store purposes at Ottawa, \$8,000. I may say that the military stores were kept in a building on the opposite side of the canal, but it was quite insufficient for keeping these stores, which are of great value. The building we are about to purchase for the sum of \$8,000 is one upon a lot owned by the Government, for which there is a rental due of \$3,000. The Government gets this building for \$3,000, and this arrearage of rent. This building cost Dufresne & McGarity \$20,000, and it is sufficient to contain all the military stores we will require for years to

come, so that I think it will be admitted that we purchased a very valuable property at a reasonable price. Besides the military stores we intend to have the offices of the Brigade Major, the District Adjutant and others removed to this building, so as to give more room in the Department, which is overcrowded so far as the officers required for working the different branches are concerned.

Mr. VAIL. Where is the building?

Mr. CARON. It is on the east end of the Sappers Bridge—a stone building connected with the street by a wooden way. I may say that these stores require a great deal of care so far as preventing damp, which interferes with their value. The present building is of stone but it is not lined, but the new building is lined with wood, and there is a heating apparatus which will not only save a considerable expenditure, but will keep the stores in the best of order. I may say that the matter of the rental was referred to the Department of Justice, and it was considered that in giving up this rental and paying \$8,000 we were securing a building which was a decided acquisition at that price.

Mr. BLAKE. There seems to be an error in the mode in which the vote is proposed to be taken. It is evident that the \$3,000 of public debt due, I presume, on Ordnance Lands is a portion of the price of this property, so the price is really \$11,000 instead of \$8,000 as stated in the Estimates. The proper course would be to take a vote for \$11,000, and then \$3,000 of arrears in rent would go to the credit of the Ordnance Lands account, instead of disappearing altogether as it will by this mode of taking the vote. The vote mentions property as well as building: what property goes with the building?

Mr. CARON. The Ordnance Lands not being under the control of my Department the \$3,000 on that account cannot appear in my estimates at all, as I have to submit to Parliament in my estimates only what I am called upon to pay in the purchase of that property, which is \$8,000. As to the other point we have, of course, to be as careful as possible in framing these estimates; and there may be some outside properties, as for example the sidewalk to the street, which, though included in the purchase price, cannot be designated as part of the building.

Mr. BLAKE. It is true the hon. gentleman will have nothing to do with the \$3,000 except paying it, but the \$3,000 is part of the price.

Mr. CARON. I do not pay it.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman should pay it, else the Ordnance Lands will lose it. It is part of the consideration, and certainly Messrs. Dufresne & McGarity are not going to pay it. It is obvious that unless the hon. gentleman takes a vote for \$11,000 of which \$3,000 is a set-off, the \$3,000 will not be credited at all. Either the tenant must pay it, or the Crown must pay it as part of the price of this property, and if the Crown must pay it, it must be paid by another Department. Will the hon. gentleman state whether this great bargain was achieved by arbitration, by valuation, or by private arrangement, or how the price was arrived at?

Mr. CARON. The Department of Militia applied to the Department of Justice to recover this amount of rental, which had not been paid. Through the gentlemen who were acting for the Department of Justice, we learned that the property could be purchased for this sum, which we agreed was really far under its value; and it was a question whether it was better to purchase this property or to make the improvements and repairs which were absolutely necessary for the safety of the Militia stores. Officers both from the Public Works Department and the Militia Department were sent to inspect the old store building and the building we contemplated purchasing, and they all agreed that the purchase would be a saving of money to the