

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). I cannot tell at the moment.

Mr. McMULLEN. Will the hon. gentleman state the provision that will be made for the care of stores under the new regulations?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). There will be fewer men, who will do more work, and they will be required to do it with greater efficiency.

Mr. BERGIN. What provision does the Minister intend to make for those officers who are to be dismissed, particularly the Brigade-Majors, some of whom have been a great many years in the service, and have not been very well paid during that time.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The Minister surely does not propose to superannuate them?

Mr. BERGIN. I do not believe in leaving them without anything.

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). I have not made any proposal in connection with the matter, but I intend asking that a gratuity be given them in proportion to their length of service.

Mr. LISTER. Does the Minister propose to ask a vote in the Supplementary Estimates?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). Yes.

Military Properties, Works and
Buildings..... \$91,000

Mr. LISTER. Will the Minister explain this item?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). They are made up as follows:—Grants to rifle ranges, armouries, magazines, &c., \$6,000; fuel, \$5,500; gas, electric light, \$6,000; clearing away snow, \$1,500; materials for targets, rifle ranges, &c., \$2,000; total, \$21,000. Item 5, construction and repairs to military buildings, \$70,000.

Mr. PATTERSON (Brant). I do not speak as a military man, for I do not belong to the force, but it does seem to me, that in the report we get from the department, it would be better if there was some idea given of the condition of the property the Government is possessed of in these different military buildings throughout the Dominion. I find in the report of the architect there is a reference to repairs that have been made to certain buildings, but we have no information at all as to the condition of the various other buildings. Before the House votes sums of money in this way, we should have some brief information as to the state and condition of all the military properties. I am quite disappointed to find in this report that there is no reference whatever as to the condition of military property in different cities. I may mention, for instance, and I have brought it before the attention of this House before, that there is a drill shed, so-called, in Brantford, which

has been in a state of disrepair for months and for years, and yet we find no allusion made to that in this report. Comment has been made that the military force is not as effective as it ought to be, but I am only surprised, from what I know myself, that the military force is as effective as it is and possessed of so much spirit, under the treatment that some of the regiments, at any rate, have received from the Government. The report, referring to the Cayuga drill shed, mentions that there have been some repairs to the doors and windows, and a drain made around, and that the roof needs shingling very badly. What I am at a loss to understand is, how, if it is necessary to report that, we have no report from any of the officers of the department in reference to the drill shed of the Dufferin Rifles, than which, I believe, there is not a better battalion in the service of the country. It is true, that the roof of that drill shed does not require shingling badly, because there is no roof there at all, as it has partly been without a roof for months and for years. If the Minister will give the matter a little consideration, he will agree with me that, in wet weather especially, the proper place for a roof is on top of a building, and not on the ground. A roof does a great deal more harm than good when it is upon the ground, because it does positive injury in keeping the rain off the grass, which the battalion is anxious to keep in a nice condition. I want to know how you expect any efficiency, or how you expect to maintain a military spirit among your men when you force a battalion like that to put up for months and years with such a state of things. The Government had their architect up there, and they know about this matter; but there should be some reference in the report to it, so as to bring it before the attention of the House. I want to know whether there is a system to be used in reference to the militia of this country that will recognize it as a national force; that will free it from the control of outside agencies; that will have no regard as to the political complexion of the constituency in which the battalion may exist, and whether it will be treated on public and proper grounds. I say, Sir, that it is to the credit of the militia of Canada, and it is to the credit of the battalion in whose interest I speak now, that they have maintained their organization, and that they are as efficient as they are under the treatment they have received. I know that some steps are now being taken with reference to this matter, but the steps are being taken through the public and the martial spirit of the officers themselves, and I believe that now at last the Government has consented to pay the rent of a room where their arms can be stored. But for months and months, I might say for years the battalion that bears the honoured name of Dufferin, was located in a drill shed with a roof lying on the ground, a drill shed in which Ministers have addressed as-

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.)