

I did not know there was any question except about the weighing until it was mentioned by my hon. friend to-day, but in view of what he has said the fullest investigation will be made.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I would be very sorry to see anything like that put over on any minister. The quartermaster was away at the time this coal was being delivered. His signature appears on only two or three of these slips. His initials appear on some corrected figures, but that has nothing to do with the weighing. I drew this to the attention of the commandant at the time but it was allowed to go on. I understand that the quartermaster was visiting in London on a holiday.

Mr. RALSTON: The report states that the quartermaster signed certain weigh bills.

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): I went over the 1,500 weigh bills and I could not find one signature, and the department admitted finally that that was the case. The statement read by the minister was submitted before I made my examination, and the accounting department will admit that there is nothing to it. They assumed that the initials were those of the quartermaster, but they were not. I really think this is a very important matter, and I can assure the minister it is one I shall go into next session very thoroughly. I am going into it so thoroughly that I acquainted the commandant with what was going on. No effort was made either to confirm the statements made or to correct the condition. If you had to cut off as much as 700 or 800 pounds of coal from a truck, what did you lose with those 1,500 loads? It does not satisfy me to say that the coal is weighed. One receives a blue slip and the other a white one and it is found there are only about 150 white slips as against 1,500 blue. I am going to leave the matter there and say that this is a question we cannot let stand in this condition. I have not time to discuss it further now.

Mr. RALSTON: I assure my hon. friend I shall not wait until next session to deal with the matter.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I wonder whether the minister would allow me to call attention to a matter that concerns discipline within his own department. I have already spoken to him about it privately. A year ago, when the estimate for cadet service was under discussion, I pointed out that some of the officers were very active in seeking to enforce military training in some of the schools in the vicinity of Winnipeg. The Minister of National Defence made this statement on June 4, 1929:

Mr. Ralston: My hon. friend has said that before. I have told my hon. friend from Calgary and I say to the hon. member for Southeast Grey very sincerely: if they can show any case in which there has been instigation on the part of officers, I will deal with it promptly. The whole principle of this is that it is optional with the school authorities. There are about 7,000 teachers who are instructed this year in physical training, who are not cadet instructors, but who are giving their classes the benefit of physical training and whose instruction is being paid for out of this appropriation.

Notwithstanding that assurance given by the minister on the floor of the house and further given to various groups of people in Winnipeg and Vancouver, we find the same activity being manifested by the officers who are in charge of cadet services. As an example of this, on March 6, 1930, I read the following letter:

Winnipeg, Man., February 5, 1930.

Mr. F. A. Allden,
Secretary, School Board,
Winnipeg.
Dear Sir:

May permission be granted for a deputation of citizens to wait upon the school board on Thursday evening, February 6, when the management committee of that organization will be in session?

The delegation will deal with the introduction of cadet training in the schools and there will be at least five who wish to address the board on this important matter.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Geo. H. Gillespie, Lt.-Col.

So it would seem as if Colonel Gillespie, who was so prominent the year before and who, the minister had said, would not be permitted to continue this kind of work, has again been very active this year. This kind of activity led to the passing of a resolution by the Manitoba legislature. I wish to quote this resolution from the votes and proceedings of the legislative assembly of Manitoba:

Winnipeg, Thursday, April 10, 1930.

Resolved: That, whereas, the Minister of National Defence stated in the House of Commons on April 11, 1927, that the Dominion government received, under date of March 22, 1911, a memorandum from the provincial authorities of Manitoba in part as follows:

"The Education department encourages the formation of cadet corps including the practice of rifle shooting under suitable conditions by the older boys, in all educational establishments under its control" and also at a later date a communication signed by the Deputy Minister of Education, in part as follows:

"I am instructed by the minister to acknowledge receipt of your letters of August 29 and September 4, enclosing copies of circulars sent out by the district cadet officer at Winnipeg under date of February 27 and March 27, 1925; and to advise in connection with the letter addressed to the principals of schools, that we take the position that the establishing of cadet training is entirely a matter for the various