

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Has any one outside of Ottawa been successful in making the lowest tender?

Mr. CARON. Yes. In Montreal, O'Brien and Co. have had the great coats; and Auclair & Gagné the uniforms, in Ottawa, as the lowest tenderers.

Mr. CAMERON (Middlesex). Has the question been considered of supplying some sort of undressed uniform for the volunteers who are called out for partial service?

Mr. CARON. The suggestion is a very good one, and will receive the consideration of the Department.

Mr. CAMERON. I am entirely in sympathy with the suggestion of the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) on that subject. I know it would be of service to the country, and it would be a saving to the country as well, if such a course were adopted. Young men come in from the country who are not accustomed to the tight fitting uniform which is usually supplied. Besides, it is much too heavy for service at the time of the year when the volunteers are usually called out.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). The member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) has made a suggestion which, I think, the Minister will find a difficulty in carrying out. He made use of a nautical expression, and suggested that provision should be made for head-gear. Now that, as I understand it, consists of flying-jib guys and martingales, and all sorts of things. The Minister of Militia will have to refer that to the Minister of Marine, who will be able to speak more definitely upon that subject.

Mr. CASEY. The late Major-General said there were lots of guys of all sorts in the militia.

Mr. VAIL. What about military stores?

Mr. CARON. There is an increase of \$10,000. It is required for general services in connection with stores, fuel, gas, transport of stores, arms and ammunition, &c., pay of labourers, repairs to stores, &c., \$15,000; for 500 tents, at \$18 each, \$9,000; 50 sets of saddlery, for cavalry, at \$30 each, \$1,500; articles required for repairs to harness of field batteries, the harness in many cases being worn out and unfit for service, \$2,500; accoutrements, belts, haversacks, squad bags, knapsacks, and general equipment for militia, \$22,000; 5,000 blankets, at \$2 each, \$10,000, making a total of \$60,000. The amount placed in the Estimates for military stores is required to enable the Department to replace the articles now worn out and unserviceable. Many of these articles, such as tents, saddlery, harness, accoutrements, &c., &c., having been in use for a number of years, are now completely worn out and must be replaced by new and serviceable articles.

Mr. VAIL. The accounts last year show two items, aggregating \$12,000, for blankets. Were they obtained by public or by private contract?

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman will remember that this matter came before Parliament last Session, and I told him that from peculiar circumstances, as the militia was going out at a late period in the year, and as the number of blankets we had in store was only sufficient to give each man one blanket, the Department had not sufficient time to call for tenders, and they had to procure these blankets without calling for tenders last year. But since then, tenders have been called for. The whole question came before Parliament last year, and the papers were asked for, and I brought down every letter and document connected with the purchase of these blankets.

Mr. VAIL. I wish to get some information about the price paid for clothing and blankets. In 1875 the Department was obliged to purchase, at Halifax, a number of blankets for Prince Edward Island, and the average price paid per pound was 33½ cents. But I find in the items of the Public Accounts for the year that the hon. gentleman paid

Mr. CARON.

55 cents per pound for his blankets. Now, that seems to me to be a very important difference, and I do not know how it can be explained except, upon the principle that goods have increased very much in price.

Mr. CARON. If the hon. gentleman could say that the blankets for which he paid 33½ cents per pound, were of exactly the same quality as those for which we paid 55 cents per pound, of course he would be quite right, but I am very certain the hon. gentleman is not right. The blankets which we purchased last year were much superior to any blankets which we ever had before in the Department, even when we were importing them from England. As for the increase in the other items, I may repeat to the hon. gentleman that it arose from the fact that the stores which we had were very old and some of them were perfectly useless. Last year we had representations from almost every camp, complaining that the tents did not protect the men against the rain. It was necessary to replace the tents, and I am now providing for that.

Mr. CAMERON (West Middlesex). Have applications been made for knapsacks?

Mr. CARON. The sum of \$22,000 is for the purpose of getting belts, haversacks and other accoutrements which are absolutely required for the force.

Mr. CASEY. Has the hon. gentleman given attention to the modern system of accoutrements?

Mr. CARON. Yes.

Mr. CASEY. He is now aware that in England a much improved method of hanging the knapsacks and side arms now prevails. Is it of that sort that the new ones are to be?

Mr. CARON. Yes. I hope we may be able to get the Oliver pattern, or an improvement upon it.

Resolutions to be reported, Committee to sit again.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and (at 2 o'clock, a.m.) the House adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 21st March, 1884.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEBATES.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell) from the Select Committee appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of the House during the present Session, presented the following as their Third Report:—

The Chief Reporter having submitted a letter, enclosing an application from Mr. J. W. Mathewson, (copies of which letter and application are hereto appended), asking that he be remunerated for his services in repairing and keeping in order the caligraph writing machines, used by the Official Reporting Staff—the Committee have carefully considered the same, and would recommend that the application be granted, and that Mr. Mathewson be paid the sum of \$130 per Session for that service, such payment to commence with the present Session. The Committee would also recommend that one additional caligraph writing machine be purchased for the use of the House in connection with the Official Reporting.

He also presented the following as the Fourth Report:—

The Committee have had before them an application from the members of the Official Reporting Staff, respecting the remuneration they receive for their services—and have after carefully considering the same, decided to recommend, that commencing with next Session, the