

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. This officer has seen the manufacturers there.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I would recommend him to look into what the American manufacturers are doing. If he looks into the matter, he will find in the United States a record that will surprise him.

Mr. DANIEL. I desire to call attention to a statement that was made in the public press, that at a recent camp at Niagara it was found out, just in time, that a lot of ammunition supposed to be blank was found to be loaded with slugs, and that the discovery was made just in time to prevent serious casualties.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The report in the newspapers was contradicted by General Cotton at once. There is no truth in it. As usual, before going into the sham fight, all the men were searched for cartridges of every kind, and these few were found. They would have been found in any case. They were in possession of the men for target firing. They were improperly kept, no doubt.

Mr. DANIEL. But I suppose there are no such cartridges manufactured, those loaded with slugs?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No.

Mr. J. D. REID. How much is it estimated will be paid to the Ross Rifle Company for rifles out of the estimates this year?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The item out of which the rifles will be paid for is the one reserved. The price is \$25, and the annual number to be delivered under the contract is 10,000.

Mr. J. D. REID. That means a maximum payment of \$25,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. You cannot tell exactly. A certain amount is paid as advance and a certain amount of the last instalment on the finished gun.

Mr. J. D. REID. When we reach that item perhaps the minister could have a statement showing the estimate of what will be paid to the Ross Rifle Company during the year.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The amount estimated is \$250,000 in advance, with final payments of \$85,500, and cost of inspection, \$20,000.

Mr. J. D. REID. That is about \$250,000 that is expected to be paid this year?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes, if they are delivered.

Customs dues, \$200,000.

Mr. J. D. REID. Why such a great increase in this item?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. We are bringing in a great deal of stuff from England, large orders of guns, and everything that comes from the outside is charged duty. That comes out of our pockets and goes into the customs.

Mr. WARD. Could not the minister reconsider this regulation and allow officers' uniforms to come in free of duty? Officers purchasing uniforms in England have to pay duty.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am afraid we cannot treat officers differently from others. The only thing that can be done is to buy our uniforms in Canada. I stated in this House a year ago that I could see no reason why officers should not get their clothing made in Canada. I think that is the proper thing to do, and I do not believe it would cost them as much as it does in England.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I have always maintained for the last forty years that the officers should get an allowance, that they should be furnished a certain amount for their uniform. As soon as an officer is qualified he should get a certain amount for the purchase of a proper uniform.

Civil government—Department of Labour—salaries, \$21,750; contingencies, \$1,450.

Mr. BOYCE. Under this item I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Labour to some matters in connection with the importation of foreign labour from the United States and other foreign countries. It is said, and I believe with truth, that the working of our Alien Labour law is by no means satisfactory. In the constituency which I have the honour to represent, and in every other riding where there is a coast line, the same difficulty has been found to exist, namely, that the administration of our present Alien Labour law is very lax indeed; it lacks that rigidity and that honesty of enforcement which will alone carry out the letter as well as the spirit of the Act. With regard to the condition of things in the riding of Sault Ste. Marie, I can best illustrate it by reading a copy of a petition which is now, I believe, in the hands of the minister:

To the Honourable the Minister of Labour, Ottawa.

The petition of the undersigned citizens of the town of Sault Ste. Marie in the province of Ontario, most respectfully sheweth:

1. That by reason of close proximity to the international boundary, your petitioners are more than usually alive to the fact that there is no rigid enforcement of the provisions of any law in force in Canada to restrict the importation and employment of aliens, and that in consequence industries here suffer by the employment of foreign labour.

2. That your petitioners are aware of, and will draw to your attention, the fact that