

agreed to violate their own law and accept certain sights (the Birmingham Small Arms company's sights, etc., made in the old land, is attached to the Ross rifle), they break their rule in that the mode of attachment disfigures to a certain extent the woodwork. I am not expressing any opinion on the matter one way or the other. I am waiting further information.

Mr. MACDONALD. I hope the minister will not agree to any such proposition.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I have nothing to do with that.

Mr. MACDONALD. I hope he will not agree to it in so far as his consent is concerned. There is no reason why the Sutherland Rifle sight should not be used attached to the Ross rifle as it is. The theory upon which the objection is based is that as it is attached the difficulty is it would interfere in actual warfare with the use of the rifle, but that seems ridiculous when they substitute for that method an attachment on the side, which manifestly would be of no value whatever in warfare as it would be broken off and lost immediately. The policy of the department has been to encourage this Canadian industry which manufactures sights in Canada, and I hope the minister will carry out the position he indicated he would take when we discussed this question before.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The minister is not in the habit of changing very readily.

Mr. NESBITT. Is anything done to encourage rifle clubs in the country?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The regulations give the rifle clubs one dollar per member up to forty members besides one hundred rounds of ammunition.

Mr. McKENZIE. In my county we have an excellent regiment but there is no band in connection with it. There are however some very excellent bands in the county and if the minister engages bands to accompany the regiment to camp I can tell him that he can easily find a very excellent band in my county. I hope the minister will make some arrangement with the colonel of the 94th to give the regiment a band when they are going into camp.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The regulations provide that no man can wear a uniform in camp unless he is sworn in for three years, and that applies to the band. Of course, in case a bandsman should not be able to return the following year, I have never known a commanding officer so short-sighted as to force that man out. In many cases the band is not really part and parcel of the regiment, although it is supposed to be. The proper plan would be for the band

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria).

in my hon. friend's town to regard itself as part of the regiment, and they would soon discover that the people would recognize them as the 94th band which would be a help to them in getting engagements. The regulation with regard to the band rests with the officers of the regiment.

Headquarters and district staff, \$183,000.

Mr. CARVELL. What is the cause of the increase in this vote?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). There is an increase under General French's report. I am ready to justify that report and to give satisfactory reasons for this whole staff expenditure, which has been gradually growing in the last four or five years. At first I was very much opposed to it, but during the last four or five years I have come round. We have, by arrangement between the colonies and the empire, an Imperial general staff, and Canada has the advantage of having, in every division and district, an Imperial staff officer from the old country, who is loaned to us for two years, in order to train up our men. These officers were not getting the pay which appertained to the same rank and position in the old country; in other words, they were losing money by coming to Canada; and there is an increase of \$300 each to ten of these men, to make the pay the same as that of the corresponding rank in the old country. Otherwise we could not expect them to remain.

Mr. CARVELL. I must tell my hon. friend that that information is not satisfactory to me and it will not be satisfactory to the country. The sooner we admit that this general staff has reached unreasonable proportions, the better it will be for all concerned. No man need tell me that it is necessary to have 61 permanent officers, at an average of \$3,318 each, to look after merely the routine affairs of the militia in Canada, and that does not include the \$21,600 authorized by statute for the military members of the Militia Council. There is something wrong in the general principle. A general staff as proposed by General French may be all right in England, where they keep an army to fight; but we keep one merely for the purpose of assisting the civil authorities to maintain order in case of necessity, and to provide a nucleus that may be necessary in times of trouble. Look at the utter ridiculousness of the whole proposition. Here are officials, who are paid fabulous salaries for the amount of work they are doing, receiving this year an increase amounting to more than one-third of the increase to the 60,000 citizen soldiers of Canada. There is no use of my hon. friend telling me that this is a complicated question. This is not common sense, and I hope my hon. friend will be able to give a better reason next year.