

or three centres—perhaps Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal; but lately he has been going to a large number of centres, and has been having the horses brought there. What my hon. friend the Minister of Militia says is quite true in many instances. I do not think the officer himself knows altogether what the arrangements are between the man who brings in the horses and the original owners of them; but I know of my own personal knowledge that in many cases the contractors found on their hands a large number of rejected horses which they had to dispose of as best they could. In addition to that, they were under considerable expense. They had to keep the horses from one to two weeks before the officers came round, trim them, and in some cases bridle and bit them and manage them. So that the business is not quite as profitable as at first sight it appears. I have no doubt these contractors have been making some money; it is not likely they would engage in the business if they did not; but I think I may say that the prices of horses in Canada has been materially raised in consequence of the purchases of the War Office within the last two years, and it has helped to relieve our own market of a large number of horses which otherwise would not have been easily sold.

Mr. SPROULE. I know that prices have been materially raised, because many of these horses were bought from the farmers at as low as \$65 or \$70 and sold to the War Office at \$140.

An hon. MEMBER. No, no.

Mr. SPROULE. I know what I am talking about, because I saw some of the animals purchased. I moved for a return on the subject in this House, and I found that these horses had been sold to the War Office at an average price of \$140. But that has been changed, and the farmers are at present getting comparatively good prices for their horses. If, as the minister suggests, fairs are held at different localities, where the farmers can bring in their horses or the contractors could have them selected direct by the party sent around to make the selection, that would be in my judgment the very best plan that could be adopted.

Grants to associations, \$38,000.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. This is the usual vote. Ontario gets \$1,800, Quebec \$1,700, Nova Scotia \$1,500, New Brunswick \$1,300, Manitoba \$750, British Columbia \$620, and Prince Edward Island \$630, making \$8,300. The grant to battalion rifle associations and to bands range from \$25 to \$200 each, according to strength and efficiency, about 90 of each. The artillery grant is all paid to the Artillery Association. There is the grant to the Dominion Rifle Association and the grant to local rifle associations \$6,500. The bands of the

active militia receive \$7,500, and military institutes \$300.

Contingencies, \$22,000.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. This includes printing and stationery, \$12,000; military survey, \$4,000. This is a topographical survey, done by cadets at the Royal Military College, under the direction of their professors.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What was done with it afterwards?

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. It is in the Intelligence branch of the Quartermaster General's office. It is a most careful survey of the country along the frontier, giving every road, the height of hills and the buildings. It is a magnificent piece of work, well worth examining.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). How much of the country has been done?

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. We have been doing the work for the last five years. I could not say the number of miles. Then there is advertising \$1,500; injuries at annual drill, \$3,000; telegraph and legal expenses, &c., \$3,500. When we came to office we had a smaller vote, but two years ago we adopted the plan of making the vote large enough to cover expenses, so that we will not have to ask any supplementary vote.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What are those injuries?

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Injuries to men, but more particularly to horses. Every year there is a certain number of horses killed or rendered useless, and we pay for them at a rate not exceeding \$100 per horse.

Royal Military College, \$75,000.

Mr. SPROULE. I would call the attention of the minister to some comments by the commandant on this institution:

It is a matter for great regret that this admirable institution, established for the express purpose of securing for the Canadian militia a supply of well trained and capable officers, entirely fails to attain this object. What brought about this state of things it is impossible to say, but one thing seems clear, that in the period spent at the college, the students do not imbibe any soldierly ambition or acquire a taste for military employment, and it is sad to see, year after year, young gentlemen who have received such an excellent military education at great cost to the state, holding aloof from the service of their country.

Has the minister given any consideration to those comments?

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have read very carefully the General's report, and while I agree with him to some extent, I do not think that he should have made so strong a case. He