

Mr. CLARKE. What did the minister say as to supplying tents for the cadets?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. We really have not the tents available. If I could I would gladly facilitate the cadets in securing tents that are reported as unfit for military use, but we must go through the form of selling them by public auction.

Mr. CLARKE. I desire to take the opportunity of saying that on two or three occasions when I asked the minister to facilitate the camping out of the companies of the boys brigade, he very kindly placed at their disposal tents that were not quite up to the mark for military purposes. Possibly he might be able to do something of that kind for the cadets.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I will look into that suggestion.

Mr. CLARKE. I should think too, that the senior members of the cadet corps might possibly be supplied with a certain quantity of ammunition.

Mr. SPROULE. I understand that the supplies, after they become used up, can only be sold legally by public auction.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, or by public tender.

Mr. SPROULE. That was not done with rifles that were sold at twenty-five cents each.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, by public tender advertised in every paper in all the large cities in Canada. That matter was threshed out here. I laid the papers on the Table. The hon. gentleman has forgotten it.

Mr. INGRAM. When you submit the Bill next session you might provide that the damaged tents should be given to the cadet corps.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think provision might be made to include the cadets in the militia of the country, and I may say that is under consideration. Then there would be no difficulty.

Mr. INGRAM. I notice also that the report calls attention to the fact that many of the aiming tubes were out of order. It says:—

In one instance 33 out of a total of 43 were returned serviceable, as many as seven bullets having to be removed from one tube.

Is that owing to the carelessness of the men using them or to the tubes not being perfect?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I cannot tell my hon. friend. I think that it must be due to carelessness.

Mr. CLARE. In the petition to the minister to which I have referred they asked that some of the discarded staff sergeants' swords should be given to the officers of the cadet corps. I understand that each company would like to have three swords, and if they are discarded and of no use to the department, I do not see why they should not be given to the cadet corps.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No reason at all. I think that ought to be done. I will look into it.

Mr. FOWLER. I think some of these young cadets could hardly lift a cavalry sword. It would be rather heavy for them.

Mr. INGRAM. I observe that the Major General in his report expresses disapproval of the abolition of canteens on the ground that soldiers are liable to go to hotels and indulge in spirits whereas they would be content with a glass of beer if they could get it in the canteen in camp. Has the hon. minister any particular view himself on this question? I know he was attacked very severely a few years ago for allowing the canteens to exist, and he assured those who were attacking him that it was his intention to abolish them. If the commanding officer in his report recommends them, and if only ales are allowed to be sold in them, on the ground that they would prevent the soldiers going outside and indulging too freely, I think it would be a step in the right direction to re-establish them, notwithstanding all that has been said against them. There is no doubt that while there may be a good many temperance men in camp, there are others who believe in taking a glass of ale—perhaps more than that.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Two of them.

Mr. INGRAM. Yes, two of them. I think we ought not to be guided too much by sentiment in this matter. I think common sense ought to prevail, and that the Major General's recommendation should be carried out. I am not advocating the drinking of liquor by soldiers, but they may think at times that they should have a glass of ale, and I see no good reason why they should be deprived of it.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. If my hon. friend were clothed with responsibility of office possibly he would not be quite so free to express his opinion. The fact is that when I came into office I found the regulation to which the Major General takes exception in existence, although some people have supposed that it was adopted quite recently. That regulation has been in existence for ten years or more. While the Major General is quite within his right in expressing his own opinion, I am not myself inclined to recommend the wiping out of that regulation. If a man requires a glass of beer, if it is essential