

ing the small amount granted for drilling the Militia. If we make this vote now \$10,000, we will have to do the same the next and following years.

Mr. CARON. Under the late Administration, the late Government granted to the Dominion Rifle Association, on more than one occasion, \$10,000; the figure of \$3,000 has stood for a number of years, so that there is no danger at all of our having to increase it any more than I have just stated.

Mr. VAIL. If you increase that \$2,000, it will stand for the future.

Mr. CARON. No; it will not.

Mr. VAIL. In my time, they were quite satisfied to receive their \$8,000.

Mr. CARON. At that time, I was sitting on the other side of the House, and I know that several deputations called upon the then Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie, for the purpose of getting this increased, and complained most bitterly that the association was unable, from want of funds, to carry out its objects. For one year it was dropped, and the year after it was taken up again.

Mr. LISTER. The team is composed of Canadian militia-men of the active force?

Mr. CARON. Yes.

Mr. LISTER. I would ask the Minister whether our men are armed with the most modern rifle?

Mr. CARON. The arm which is distributed to the Militia force of Canada is the Snider. In the case of the Dominion Rifle Association, in the practice previous to the time of going to Wimbledon, the practice is carried on with the Martini-Henry. The hon. gentleman stated the other night that the arms which were in the hands of the Canadian Militia were perfectly useless. I beg to differ completely with the hon. gentleman.

Mr. LISTER. Not perfectly useless.

Mr. CARON. The Snider is not the latest pattern or the most improved rifle, and the Martini-Henry is the last model which has been adopted by the British Service, but my hon. friend knows, if he has taken any interest in the matter and looked into it, that experiments are going on every day in England now, and the Martini-Henry is not looked upon, among the highest authorities, as the rifle which will remain the rifle of the English service. The difficulty with us is that we have a large number of the Snider rifles. I hope that gradually—but I do not believe the time has come for that—when military authorities have determined what will be the best rifle to place in the hands of the service—we may dispose of the Snider rifles—at a loss no doubt, but not a very large loss—and replace them by an improved arm; but I do not believe that at present it would be judicious, in the face of the experiments which are being carried on in England, to change the Canadian Snider rifle completely, until we know exactly what will be adopted as the arm of the British service.

Mr. LISTER. The Snider rifle is used by the whole force now?

Mr. CARON. Yes. We have a certain supply of the Martini-Henry. The Dominion Rifle Association and most of the local associations use the Martini-Henry.

Mr. THOMPSON. I am one of those who have always advocated that the pay of the rank and file should be better than it is, and I look upon this vote for the Wimbledon Team as so much money thrown away; that it should be devoted to the benefit of the men who form the rank and file of the force, and I would like to move, though, I suppose it would be useless in this Committee, that that item be struck out, as not being of any use to the force. I

Mr. VAIL.

would call the attention of the Minister, before I sit down, to the great waste of ammunition which takes place annually, at the camps of instruction. My own experience has been, that four-fifths of the ammunition fired away at Niagara, went into the lake instead of the target. Men who never had a rifle in their hands before were there, and their whole aim and object appeared to be, to get rid of as much ammunition in as short a space of time as possible. I hope the Minister will consider this matter, as I believe he has the interests of the force at heart, though I would like to see it manifested in a little more favourable way towards the men.

Mr. CARON. Carried.

Mr. THOMPSON. What will you do?

Mr. CARON. I will.

62. Drill Sheds and Rifle Ranges..... \$10,000 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What disposition does the hon. gentleman propose to make of that \$10,000?

Mr. CARON. This vote is for the pay of caretakers, \$2,000; rents of rifle ranges, \$2,000; for general repairs, fuel, light and maintenance of drill sheds and rifle ranges, \$6,000; making \$10,000 altogether.

Mr. LISTER. How much was spent last year?

Mr. CARON. The whole of that vote was spent. It is just as small as it is possible to make it.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon. gentleman is not strictly correct, as I see that last year he spent \$7,968. However, the margin is not so very great.

Mr. CARON. The difference is upon the repairs. We estimate for general repairs of drill sheds and rifle ranges about \$3,000. It is a very small margin. Some years the repairs may be a little below, and other years they are more considerable and require the whole amount. I was under the impression that the whole vote had been expended, but I see that there was a small amount over.

Mr. THOMPSON. Does the hon. Minister know what is the state of the armouries and the state of the drill sheds? Has he had any reports as to their condition and repair?

Mr. CARON. I have, and I must say they are not in as good a condition as I would like to see them, but it is from the fact, as my hon. friend knows well, that a good many of these drill sheds were built much larger than they should have been, and in a manner quite unfitted for the purpose for which they were intended, and I am sorry to say, in a good many cases, they are not in as good a condition as I would like to see them. But I may say that, ever since I have been in the Department, I have been endeavouring to gradually put them in such a state of repair that I believe in a few years we will have them—some are too large and must be pulled down, and others have been repaired—without increasing too considerably the vote appropriated by Parliament, in better order than at present. Of course, as my hon. friend knows, we get reports from the Brigade-Majors upon these various points, and I believe, that as a rule, as far as I am able to ascertain, without looking into every individual report, the armouries are in a pretty good state.

63. Maintenance and care of military properties transferred from the Ordnance and Imperial Government..... \$12,000 00

Mr. VAIL. There is an addition of \$2,000 here.

Mr. CARON. The vote, apart from the addition, is made up thus: \$3,300, pay of caretakers; \$1,800, rents of military properties; \$100, removal of snow at Montreal and Quebec; care and maintenance of properties, including general services in connection therewith, \$4,500. The additional \$2,000 is required for pay of a military engineer, to